

# The Numismatist

FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, MEDALS, TOKENS AND PAPER MONEY



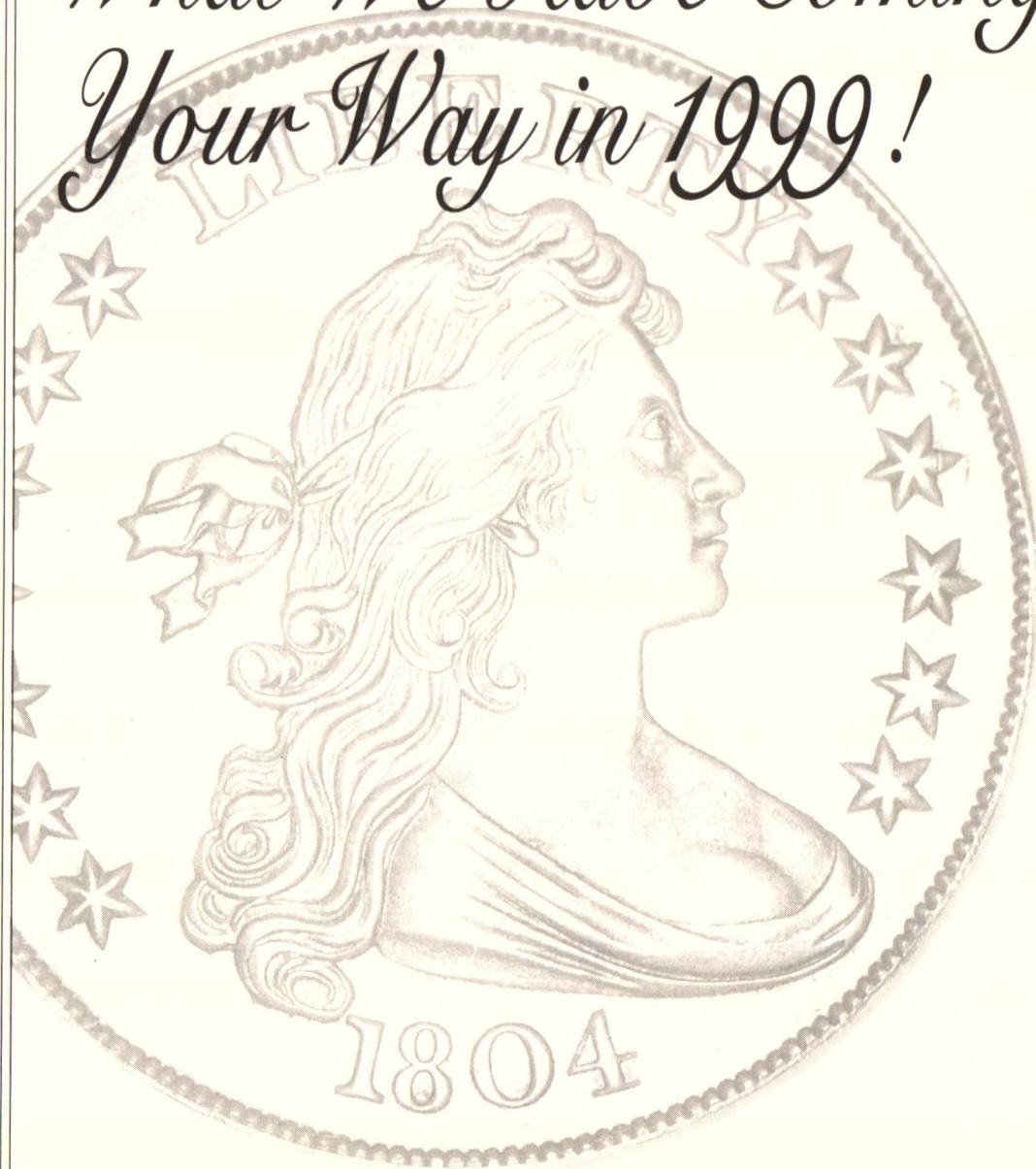
HI! I'M LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE. INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU'LL LEARN ALL ABOUT ME AND THIS SWELL COIN!



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# The Numismatist

## FEATURES

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#### Legends of the Little Orphan Annie

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LEONARD AUGSBURGER

### U.S. NUMISMATICS

#### New Jersey's St. Patrick Coins

- 267 In 1682 New Jersey accepted copper coins from Dublin, bearing an image of St. Patrick, as legal tender.

NORM APPLEBAUM

### U.S. COINAGE

#### Some Observations on Early Dollars

- 270 Flowing Hair and Draped Bust dollars offer diversity and enchantment to collectors who appreciate their important position in the history of American coinage.

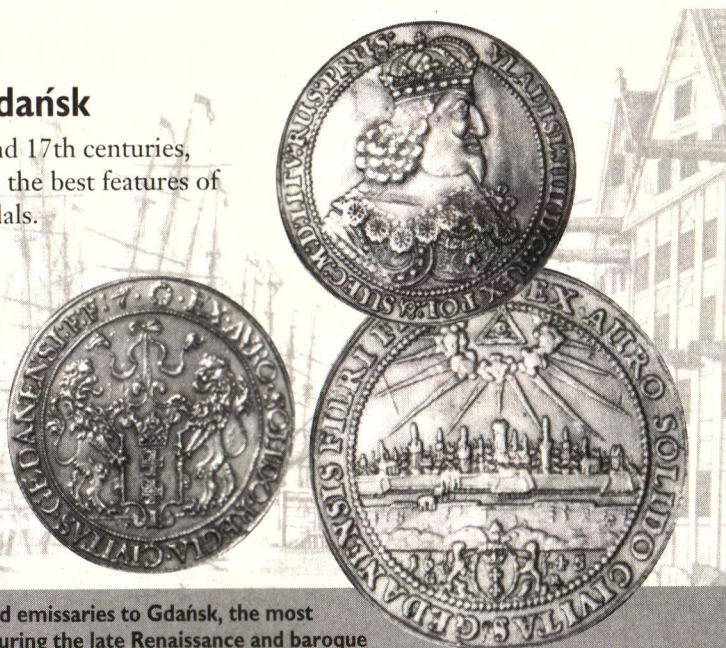
JOHN J. HAUGH

### POLISH NUMISMATICS

#### Gold Donatives of Gdańsk

- 275 Struck in Poland in the 16th and 17th centuries, exquisite gold pieces combined the best features of coins and commemorative medals.

STAN GARCZYNSKI



Visiting kings and royally appointed officials and emissaries to Gdańsk, the most important regional port along the Baltic Sea during the late Renaissance and baroque eras, were presented beautiful gold pieces (page 275).





## COVER

Dubbed the "Little Orphan Annie," the 1844 dime owes its exaggerated reputation to a few devoted hobbyists (page 261). Fans of Orphan Annie herself will find the variety of vintage collectibles of interest (page 291).

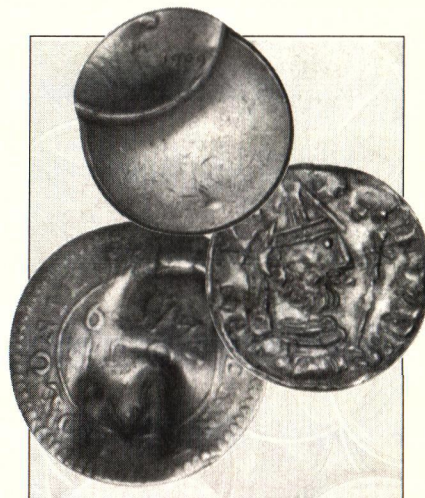
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Collectors of early dollars have learned to accept and appreciate the series, warts and all (page 270).

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Each month the ANA Authentication Bureau receives a fascinating array of coins for evaluation (page 326).



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PCGS PR65 1879 Flowing Hair Stella  
NGC MS65 1830 Capped Bust \$2.5  
NGC MS68 1897 \$2.5 Liberty  
NGC MS65 1911-D \$2.5 Indian  
NGC 1795 Draped Bust \$5 Small Eagle  
NGC MS65 1842-C Lg. Date \$5 Liberty  
NGC PR65 1883 \$20 Liberty  
PCGS PR66 1892 \$20 Liberty  
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NGC MS64 1794 Flowing Hair Dollar  
NGC MS67 1864 Type III Gold Dollar  
NGC PR66 1879 Coiled Hair Stella  
NGC PR66 1869 \$2.5 Liberty  
NGC MS68 1902 \$2.5 Liberty  
NGC PR66 1857 \$3 Gold  
NGC MS65 1805 Draped Bust \$5  
PCGS MS65 1907 Rolled Edge \$10 Indian  
PCGS PR66 1886 \$20 Liberty  
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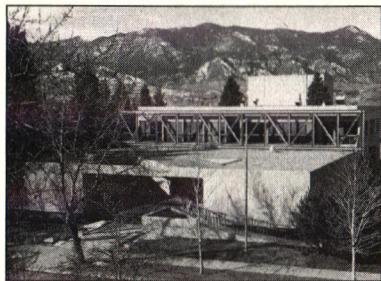
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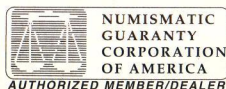
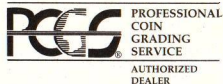
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# The Importance of Coin Talk

A LOT OF people in and outside the hobby say this year marks the beginning of something very big for numismatics. The reasons for these comments, of course, our new 50 State Quarters,<sup>TM</sup> revised paper money and upcoming dollar coin, all of which give rise to talk about numismatics among the general public.

The importance of these issues was magnified for me when I was fortunate enough to participate in the first-strike ceremony for the Delaware quarter and the launching of the Dolley Madison commemorative silver dollar. I reported on the former experience in the February issue and now would like to relate the latter event.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton introduced the Dolley Madison commemorative silver dollar program in the East Room of the White House on January 11. It was very appropriate to have the current first lady launch the first commemorative coin to honor *the* first lady. I also was pleased to meet with co-lateral descendants of James and Dolley Madison; Richard Moe of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and Michael J. Kowalski, president of Tiffany & Company, which designed the coin.

The dollar was created to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Dolley Madison's death. A portion of the proceeds will be used by the National Trust for Montpelier, the Madisons' historic home located between Charlottesville and Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Dolley Madison, the wife of President James Madison and the first spouse to be called "first lady," served as White House "hostess" during the presidency of Thomas

FROM YOUR  
PRESIDENT  
.....  
BY ANTHONY SWIATEK

Jefferson (1801-09), a widower. During her husband's administration (1809-17), Dolley Madison defined the role of first lady through her style of social and ceremonial etiquette. She also is noted for her diplomacy and bravery in rescuing important

government papers and Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington as the British were about to storm and burn the White House.

After the ceremony, I presented Mrs. Clinton with two Arkansas commemorative coins—a 1935-D Arkansas Centennial half dollar and a 1936 Robinson-Arkansas Centennial half dollar—on behalf of the ANA. In so doing, I hoped to relate what she was doing that day in the White House to the world of numismatics.



**First Lady Hillary Clinton, along with Richard Moe of the National Trust (seated) and U.S. Undersecretary Larry Summers, introduced the new Dolley Madison coin in the White House East Room, in which hangs Stuart's famous portrait of George Washington.**



*ANA President Anthony Swiatek (LM 1099), pictured here in the White House press room at the recent launch of the Dolley Madison silver dollar, is an authority on gold and silver commemorative coins. He is the author of a number of books, newsletters and articles, and has received the ANA's Heath and Wayte and Olga Raymond Literary Awards, as well as the ANA Medal of Merit and Outstanding Adult Advisor Award.*

My experience may seem a little more grand than an everyday meeting, but it was not more important than any other discussions I have regarding our hobby. I cherish all my conversations with collectors and club members, whether in person, by telephone or by mail. Our job as numismatists is to keep up the talk about the historical significance of money and the fun of coin collecting. The Mint's 50 State Quarters<sup>TM</sup> program will help. And, while I will remember my visit to the White House, it will be just one of thousands of wonderful experiences I expect to have during this new age of coin collecting. •

*Anthony Swiatek*



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# Class Makes Coin Photography a Snap

LAST JULY, I had the honor of attending the American Numismatic Association's 30th Annual Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with 350 other collectors and instructors. My trip was financed by a scholarship from the Central States Numismatic Society (CSNS).

Classes at the week-long Summer Seminar are taught by experts in numismatics who are more than willing to share their knowledge. Students chose from a variety of courses, from "Computers as a Numismatic Tool" to "U.S. Coin Grading."

I took the class entitled "Coin Photography," taught by Tom Mulvaney, noted numismatic photographer, and Astrid Gracy, the ANA's in-house photo technician. The class is limited to eight persons, allowing for plenty of individual instruction.

Coin photography is an art . . . and a skill numismatists can and should develop (no pun intended). The instructors began by handing out a list of basic equipment necessary for taking good numismatic photographs. (Mulvaney wrote an excellent article about coin photography, entitled "Picture Perfect," for the July 1997 issue of *COINage*. In it he discusses which cameras and lenses are best for this purpose.)

We then learned two distinct methods of taking photographs, both of which involved using stationary "copy stands." Mulvaney's way involved adjusting a 75-watt light, with the camera tilted slightly. Gracy's approach reflected light off a piece of glass at a 45-degree angle. Both methods had their advantages.

The course also covered such topics as copyrights and credits. The instructors stressed the importance of giving proper credit for reproduced works, as their photographs have appeared in auction catalogs and national coin club publications without permission or credit. Mulvaney, who has spent the past two years photographing the John Jay Pittman Collection for auctioneer David Akers, noted that the way a coin is pictured in an auction catalog can make a difference of several thousand dollars in the final bid.

Former CSNS President John Wilson and his wife, Nancy, were in the class with me, and requested special in-



struction in taking numismatic slides. John borrowed some coins from the "treasure chest" (a box of coins in the ANA's rotunda, from which young visitors can select free souvenirs) and experimented with different ways of shooting coins in color.

It was great to see the results of each student's work as black-and-white prints were produced from their negatives. Gracy is an expert in the darkroom, and she was able to "improve" our prints by adjusting the exposure on various portions of the images to compensate for our amateur attempts at lighting. We all were amazed at what she could do. In addition, Mulvaney showed us how to roll exposed film on a spool in pitch darkness for developing in a special canister filled with chemicals.

I brought along a couple of photographically challenging items from my own collection to see if I could get some decent pictures. One was a 32mm, silver planchet with a lettered edge used for Lithuanian 10-litu coins from 1936 to 1938. (The blanks were prepared at the mint in Brussels, Belgium, and then shipped to the mint in Kaunas, Lithuania, for striking.)

The instructors showed me a method using the reflective cone from inside a flashlight to capture the lettering on the edge of the planchet. Because this procedure yields a mirror image, the lettering was backward on the photograph. But since the planchet was blank, all we had to do was flip the negative when creating the print to make the lettering appear normal.

The skills I acquired in the ANA's "Coin Photography" class are something I will be able to use in the future. My week of numismatic education was well worth the trip. •

*An ANA member for more than 20 years, Frank Passic is active in Michigan numismatics. Since 1978 he has served as numismatic curator at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. This commentary was adapted from the Fall 1998 issue of THE CENTINEL, official publication of the Central States Numismatic Society. For additional information about the 1999 Summer Seminar, contact the ANA Education Department.*

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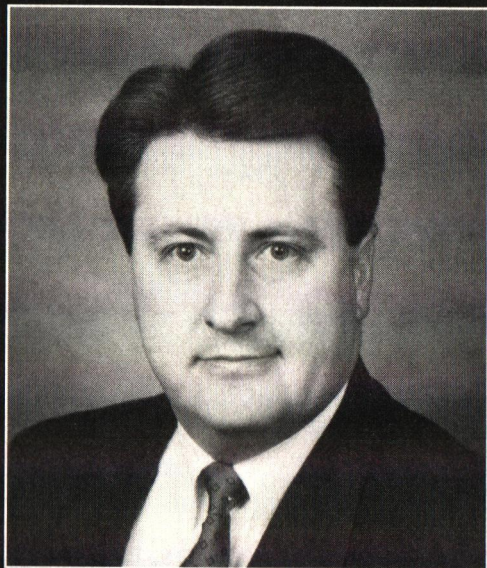
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**—Bill Fivaz, author, educator and former ANA Governor**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Bob Campbell, Ken Bressett, Chairman, LM 369, P.O. Box 60145, Colorado Springs, CO 80903



# LETTERS

## Educators May Be Fanciful, but Education Is Not

Life is a continuing education, and I learned new lessons in reading the comments from Tedd Levy and Ken Bressett ("Spengler's Inspiration—or Fantasy," January 1999, p. 15) concerning my admittedly fanciful article about "Mr. Spengler's Pennies."

Mr. Bressett is quite right in stating that there were no British pennies in 1770. I was thinking of the halfpenny, and some version of that would have been the coin the "young Ben Franklin" would have spent for bread during a much earlier arrival in the colonies. Let no

## Pearls of Wisdom

Thank you, thank you, thank you for again making tears come to my eyes from laughing so much at Donn Pearlman's column. Great to have him back!

—Kathy Sarosi, LM 3178

blame fall upon any of my "composite" teachers, although in my day, elementary-school history books took certain liberties with accuracy in order to instill patriotism and national pride in impressionable, young minds (something about "the greater good," I think).

My purpose was to point out the importance of passing on our lore and the profound effect that good educators can have by capturing the

imagination of their charges. I had also hoped to use the article to promote the ANA's Numismatic Curricula Project. We all owe a debt to those who teach our children and, for that matter, adults who continue to learn.

My lessons in this instance are to double check my historical facts even when writing fiction, and that while some readers will get the writer's point, others will be more concerned with making their own.

Will Rossman, LM 5115

## Researcher Seeks Information on "Granite Lady" Cornerstone

This letter is an invitation to readers to possibly help me solve the riddles of the 1870 coinage from the San Francisco Mint.

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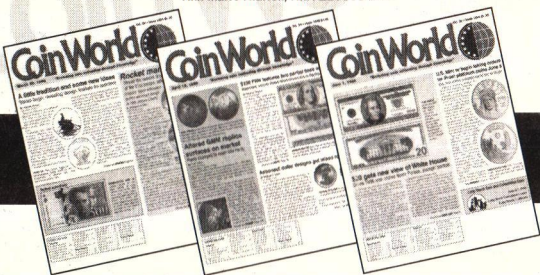
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MARIA GASOI, ANA 183505



I first need the exact date in 1870 when cornerstone ceremonies were held for the second mint (the "Granite Lady"), and when the cornerstone itself might have been opened years later. With this knowledge in hand, I will be able to investigate further into the coinage.

Any other research information on this subject, other than what already has been written, would be greatly appreciated.

Rich Kelly, ANA 176384  
26746 Contessa St.  
Hayward, CA 94545-3150  
E-mail: numisrich@aol.com

#### **Article about First Quarter Pictures Half Dime in Error**

While reading Bill Jones' fine article on the origins of the country's first quarter dollar ("The U.S. Mint's First Quarters," p. 40), I noticed that the illustration used in the article was not a 1796 quarter, but a 1796 half dime. All the silver issues of 1796 used the same design elements and if photographed and reproduced all in the same size would be similar in style and content, except the half dollar, which has "½" engraved at 6 o'clock below the wreath bow on the reverse. The first clue in this case is that the 1796 quarter has the widest denticle rims of the 1796 silver denominations, so it is the easiest to spot; the dimes and half dimes look almost identical when their images are reproduced at the same size.

The illustration used in this article shows a 1796 "normal date" variety half dime; the first die combination believed to have been used to strike half dimes employed a 1795-dated obverse die that was repunched with a 6 over the 5. After both the obverse and reverse dies broke, a new pair of obverse and reverse dies were

used; the obverse die probably was dated 179-, with the final digit purposely omitted for later insertion (note that the final 6 seems offset from the rest of the date).

Note also from the illustration that part of the palm branch of the reverse wreath shows on the field in front of Liberty's face. This is because during the striking process the dies were impressed upon each other without a planchet between them. This apparently was an all-too-frequent occurrence at the Philadelphia Mint, especially with small coins (which were harder to handle). In order to remove the "false impressions," the dies were removed from the screw press, heated to reverse the annealing of the original die-hardening process, and delicately ground down (a process called "lapping"). The dies then were re-annealed and returned to the coining department for future coining operations.

In the lapping process, some of the finer strokes of the engraver's work unfortunately also were removed, particularly those that are closest to the field of the coin, such as the tips of the stars, ends of hair curls, and connections of the serifs on lettering. After the 1796 half dime was lapped (possibly more than once), the connection lines of the B in LIBERTY were ground away, causing the B to resemble a K, creating a sub-variety "LIKERTY" (although this is not a true variety because the original dies were used).

John Whitney ("Mr. 1796")  
ANA 128350

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Whitney is correct. The error—through no fault of the author—occurred when the staff of *The Numismatist* selected a misidentified photo from its archives.

#### **Gravestone Restoration a Worthy Project for ANA**

I recently read an article indicating that the headstone of David Rittenhouse, the first director of the United States Mint, is broken and worn in a Philadelphia graveyard. I wondered if it might not be appropriate for the ANA to fund its restoration or historically accurate replacement. In addition to replicating the original wording on durable, long-lasting granite, wording could be added, stating that Mr. Rittenhouse was the first U.S. Mint director and giving the years he served in that capacity.

Perhaps the original 200-year-old gravestone could be carefully removed and placed in the ANA Museum for preservation. Additionally, a historical marker explaining about Mr. Rittenhouse and the first United States Mint could be installed at the site by the ANA. I would like to suggest that ANA President Anthony Swiatek form a committee to look into this proposal.

David Allen Hines, ANA 142756

#### **Youth Advisor Shares Memories of Burnett Anderson**

I am saddened by the passing of a true friend and an exceptional gentleman, Burnett Anderson (see "Obituaries," January 1999, p. 87). For many years, Burnett took the time to attend my young numismatist programs and speak to the youngsters in attendance. He had a very special way of communicating with young people, and when he spoke, everyone listened patiently.

He would tell of how he got started in numismatics, and of his love of collecting Swedish coins. Then he would go into his travels around the world with his job with the government, and about all the



happenings in Washington, D.C., as bureau chief of Krause Publications. He always was ready to pull the first door-prize ticket and give away a free subscription to *Numismatic News* or, on several occasions, an interesting coin he had purchased on the bourse floor.

Burnett Anderson was a wonderful, very sincere person, and it was a great pleasure to know him. I always looked forward to seeing Burnett at coin shows or conventions, and spending a few minutes chatting with him. I will miss him very much and know that young coin collectors who had the pleasure of meeting him will regret his passing. Our hobby has lost one of the truest gentlemen in numismatics.

Larry Gentile Sr., LM 3991

### United States Patterns Stolen

A number of coins were stolen on November 27, 1998, among them United States patterns, including 1861, 1862 and 1863 "God Our Trust" half dollars (representing Judd numbers 278, 279, 294, 295, 338, 339, 340 and 341, among others); and transitional quarters and halves with "In God We Trust" dated 1863, 1864 and 1865 (Judd 336, 342, 392, 425, 429 and 430). Most were in PCGS or NGC encapsulations, with one in ANACS and one unslabbed. The 1865 "In God We Trust" transitional half (Judd 429) was the Eliasberg specimen.

Also taken were a large number of Civil War tokens, including about 100 patriotics and 150 merchant tokens (mostly Indiana pieces, with about 30 La Porte and 25 South Bend,

along with several Plymouth).

Ancient coins included specimens of Phillip II and Alexander the Great; Lysimachus tetradrachms, several Ptolemy pieces; and several Roman silver coins.

Stolen as well were Walking Liberty and Franklin halves; an 1832 Bust half (slabbed by NGC); and about 25 unslabbed Bust halves.

Those having information should contact Detective L. Booker at the Columbus (Ohio) Police Department, 614/645-4771.

Terry Armstrong, LM 4634

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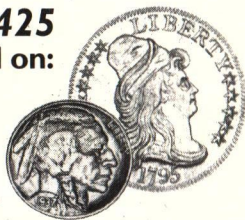
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# NEW ISSUES

## CANADA: Gold \$200 Incorporates Traditional Symbol from Mi'kmaq Culture

The Royal Canadian Mint recently introduced a 1999 \$200 gold coin featuring Mi'kmaq art, the third of four issues in its "Native Cultures and Traditions" series. The coin's butterfly motif incorporates the traditional Mi'kmaq double-curve symbol representing the balance between the physical and spiritual worlds. Surrounding the butterfly are other ancient symbols, such as a five-pointed star symbolizing eternity, a fir branch representing prosperity in life, and seven iconographic symbols reminiscent of 17th-century Mi'kmaq hieroglyphic prayer books. The cross-hatching detail recalls the ancient people's incised carving on wooden tools and boxes.

The reeded-edge, 22kt-gold \$200 coin weighs 17.135g and measures 29mm in diameter. Mintage is limited to 25,000 pieces. The 1999 But-



Actual Size: 38.61mm

**An eight-coin series celebrates the 800th anniversary of Latvia's capital city, Riga, founded in 1201 as a result of Bishop Albert's crusade to unite the local people and convert them to Christianity.**

terfly \$200 is available for \$274.95 in a collector case, created by native artist Mary Anne Barkhouse, to hold all four coins; or for \$271.95 in a simple shipping packet. The case also is available separately for \$52.95. Contact the Royal Canadian Mint, 320 Sussex Dr., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G8, Canada, or visit the Mint's web site at [www.rcmint.ca](http://www.rcmint.ca).

## LATVIA: Silver Series Celebrates Riga's 800th Anniversary

The British Royal Mint has announced the availability of the last

two coins in a series of eight sterling silver proofs celebrating the 800th anniversary of Latvia's capital city of Riga. Dated 1998, the 10-latu coins characterize Latvia during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The reverse of the "19th century" coin represents the National Song Festival, organized in 1873 after Riga re-emerged after the Napoleonic War as a thriving trade port and scientific and cultural center. The obverse bears the 19th-century Latvian coat of arms. The reverse of the "20th century" coin depicts the Freedom Monument, sculpted by Karlis Zale and a symbol of Latvian unity since 1935. The obverse features the 1925 coat of arms.

The legal-tender 10-latu coins are 38.61mm in diameter and weigh 31.47g. They are available for \$54.95 each from the British Royal Mint, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0031, telephone 800/221-1215. Please add \$4.95 per order for postage and handling. For more details about these and other coins struck by the British Royal Mint, visit the Mint's web site at [www.royalmint.com](http://www.royalmint.com).



Actual Size: 29mm

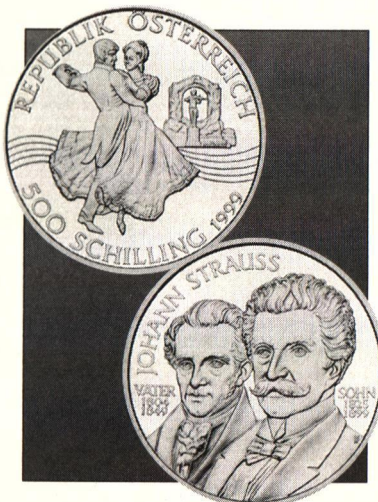
**The stylized butterfly design on Canada's new gold \$200 coin is the work of Mi'kmaq artist Alan Syliboy. Patterned after the "fiddlehead" fern, whose coiled, young shoots appear in the spring, the double-curved symbol is found on ancient Mi'kmaq petroglyphs in Kejimikujik Park, Nova Scotia.**



## AUSTRIA:

### Dual Portraits Honor Legendary Composers Johann Strauss and Son

In January the Austrian Mint issued the third and last coin in its "Legends of Viennese Music" series. The gold 500-schilling piece ties in with Austria's celebration of 1999 as "Johann Strauss Year," marking the 100th anniversary of the death of the legendary "Waltz King" and the 150th anniversary of the death of his father, Johann Strauss the Elder. The father and all three of his sons (Johann, Joseph and Edward) became outstanding composers and musicians. The waltz music of Johann the Elder and his more famous son Johann the Younger spread the fame of their home city of Vienna



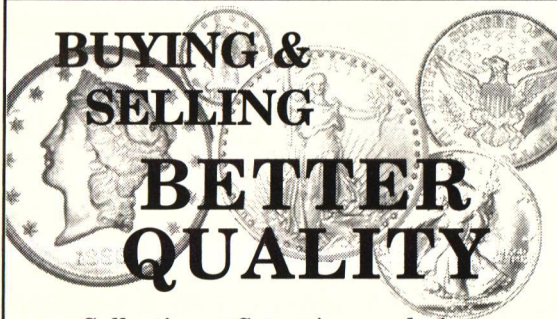
Not Actual Size

On a gold 1999 Austria 500 schilling, a Viennese couple waltzes to the music of world-renowned composers and musicians Johann Strauss the Elder and the Younger.

far and wide.

The reverse of 1999-dated coin portrays father and son at the height of their careers. The other side shows a waltzing couple dressed for a 19th-century ball, with flowing lines of a musical staff suggesting rhythmic movement. In the background is the Strauss monument in Vienna's city park.

The Strauss 500-schilling coin is struck in .995 fine gold; mintage is limited to 50,000 pieces in proof only. It is available in a wooden collector case for \$210 from Euro Collections International, telephone toll free 888/904-5544 or fax 250/658-1455. The first two coins in the series feature Franz Schubert (1997) and the Vienna Boys Choir (1998). Further details can be obtained via E-mail at [info@eurocollections.com](mailto:info@eurocollections.com).



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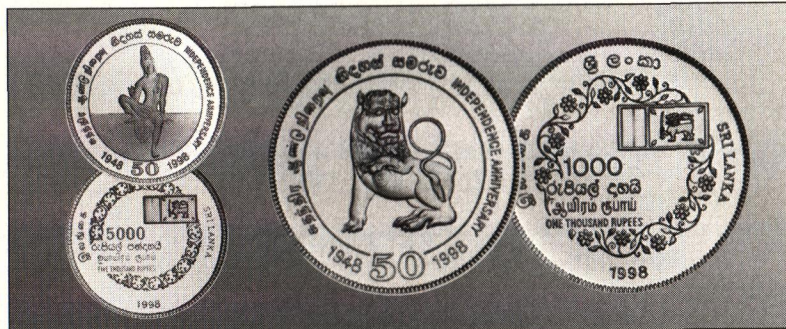
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## SRI LANKA: Nation Marks 50 Years of Independence

Mystical designs grace gold and silver proof coins struck by the British Royal Mint for the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to mark the 50th anniversary of the country's independence. known as Ceylon, the Republic of Sri Lanka ("resplendent island") was proclaimed in 1972.

The obverse of a 22kt-gold 5,000-rupee coin bears a rendering of a gilt-bronze sculpture dating to the 8th or 9th century and representing Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, an aspirant Buddha. The sterling silver 1,000-rupee piece depicts the famous lion sculpture found at Anuradhapura in ruins said to be a 3rd-century royal palace; the lion symbolizes the



Sri Lanka's 50th Anniversary of Independence gold 5,000 and silver 1,000 rupees carry inscriptions in Sinhala, Tamil and English, reflecting the nation's history from the 6th century B.C., when the Sinhalese moved south from India, through the period of British rule that lasted until after World War II.

nation of Sri Lanka. The common reverse illustrates the nation's flag and a circle of traditional Sinhala "Liyavela" artwork.

The Sri Lanka 50th Anniversary of Independence 5,000 rupees is

priced at \$229; the 1,000 rupees is available for \$54.95. Please add \$4.95 postage and handling per order. Address orders to British Royal Mint, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0031, or telephone toll free 800/221-1215. •

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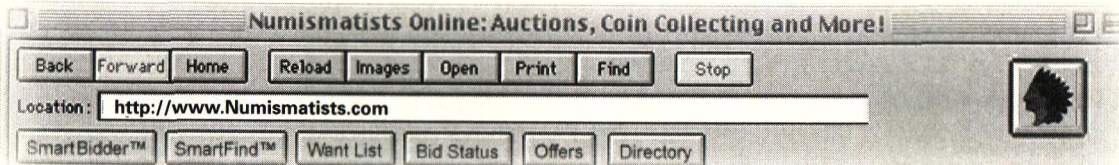
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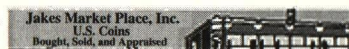
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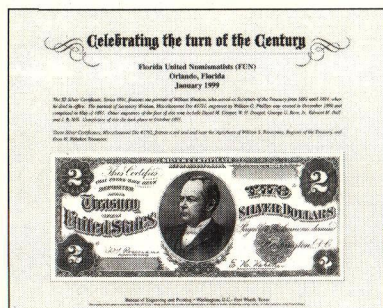
## NUMISMATIC NARRATIVES

### BEP Souvenir Cards Celebrate New Century

The United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) has launched its 1999 series of souvenir cards, which revolves around the theme "Celebrating the Turn of the Century." Each will picture a silver certificate issued after 1891.

The first in the series, released in January at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) convention in Orlando, features a \$2 silver certificate (Series 1891) with a portrait of William Windom, who served as Secretary of the Treasury from 1881 until 1891. The portrait (Miscellaneous Die #3721) was engraved by William G. Phillips. The original note carried a red seal and the signatures of Register of the Treasury William S. Rosecrans and United States Treasurer Enos H. Nebeker.

The FUN souvenir card (#99010) is priced at \$6.50; a U.S. Postal Service canceled souvenir card (#99011)



A souvenir card produced for the recent Florida United Numismatists show in Orlando is the first in a series issued by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing to mark the turn of the century.

is available for \$7. To order, contact the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Public Sales Office, Room 515M, 14th and "C" Sts. S.W., Washington, DC 20228; telephone 202/874-3315; or fax 202/874-6147.

### Las Vegas Museum Showcases \$40 Million Numismatic Collection

The famous King of Siam proof set, complete with an 1804 dollar, is one of the permanent exhibits at a numismatic museum scheduled to open March 2 in Las Vegas. The Treasures of Mandalay Bay Museum, located in the new Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino at 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South, showcases a \$40 million collection of rare gold and silver coins (including a 1913 Liberty Head nickel and an 1894-S Barber dime), Old West bank notes, and memorabilia from historic Nevada mining towns.

ANA members Ronald J. Gillio and Greg Roberts, both professional numismatists in California, are among the owners and operators of Casino Treasures LLC, creators of the Treasures of Mandalay Bay Museum. An audio tour of the museum, created by Q. David Bowers, will acquaint visitors with the rarities on display and introduce them to the wonderful world of numismatics.

The museum will be open from 9 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. Admission is \$6 per person; children age 12 and under are free.

### Philadelphia Mint's Roof Yielded Gold and Silver

ANA member Tom Culhane of New Jersey came across this news item in the August 16, 1877, edition of *The Independent*, a weekly New York

newspaper, regarding an unusual method of silver and gold recovery at the Philadelphia Mint:

#### GOLD FROM THE ROOF OF THE MINT.

THE dust which has been allowed to accumulate upon the roof of the Philadelphia Mint during the past twenty-five years was collected recently, by order of Gov. Pollock, for the purpose of ascertaining what proportion of the metal it contained. The roof is of asphalt; and, as it softens, the dust sticks to it tenaciously. Some amount of difficulty was, consequently, experienced in removing it; but finally a quantity amounting to 1,732 pounds in weight was removed. This has just been submitted to the usual assaying process, and the result shows that 42 ounces of standard gold and 96½ ounces of standard silver—a total valuation of about \$850—had been conveyed in the upward flight of the smoke of the chimney to the place where it became located for a season. A similar experiment was tried a quarter of a century ago, and out of 3.80 ounces of dust an ounce of gold was extracted, which is now exhibited as a curiosity in the office of the assayer. The floors of the Mint are swept every week and the accumulation preserved, and once a year the woodwork of the refining-room and the gloves of the employes [sic] are burned and the precious dust obtained from them, while the residue is sold to sweep-smelters. —*Philadelphia Bulletin*

### Coin World Provides Quarter Clearinghouse

*Coin World*, a weekly hobby newspaper published in Sidney, Ohio, plans to track the distribution of the United States Mint's new 50 State Quarters™ in a monthly column. According to an article appearing in the January 25 edition, the column will "chronicle [first reports] of finds, track patterns of distribution state-by-state, report anecdotes of how collectors found their coins and

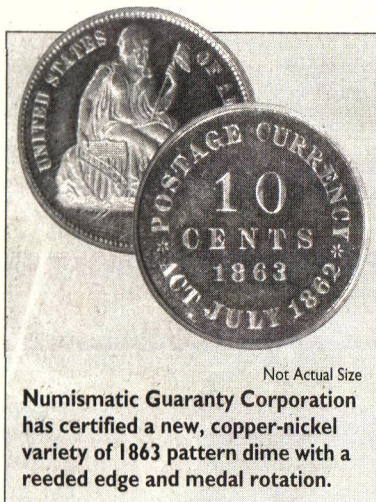


provide readers a forum to comment about the quarters and the program." Hobbyists should direct reports to *Coin World*, Box 150, Sidney, OH 45365-0150; telephone 937/498-0800 (ext. 169); or E-mail [statequarters@coinworld.com](mailto:statequarters@coinworld.com).

## New Variety of 1863 Pattern Dime Certified

A United States pattern coin submitted to Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) for laboratory analysis was revealed to be of a previously undocumented composition. Varieties are known in copper, nickel and silver-nickel; the recently examined specimen is 75-percent copper/25-percent nickel.

The undated obverse bears the Seated Liberty design used from



**Numismatic Guaranty Corporation has certified a new, copper-nickel variety of 1863 pattern dime with a reeded edge and medal rotation.**

1860 to 1891. The simple reverse carries the denomination 10 CENTS, the date 1863, and legend reading \* POSTAGE CURRENCY \* ACT JULY 1862.

According to Dave Stump, vice president of marketing for the New Jersey coin-grading firm, "This reverse die was made expressly to test the concept of postage currency. When the United States suspended payments of specie (gold and silver coins) in 1862, the public immediately hoarded all such coins, leaving most of the nation without any circulating medium between the cent and the dollar. Fractional paper notes, initially called 'postage currency' in reference to the practice of using stamps as money, took the place of the missing coins. These wore out quickly and became filthy, so the Treasury hoped to redeem them with silver coins of conventional fineness but reduced weight. It was for such coins that the postage currency patterns were struck."

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## Rulau and Wilhite Plan Retirement

Two well-known personalities in the hobby community—Russell Rulau and Robert Wilhite—have announced their retirement from the coin industry. Rulau, a collector since 1939 and a full-time numismatic professional since 1962, was chief editor of *World Coins* (1964-74) and *World Coin News* (1974-84), and a self-employed numismatic consultant since 1985. Until 1993, he served as United States representative for the Pobjoy Mint®, a private facility based in Great Britain. Since then, he has served the firm as a consultant and hopes to continue to do so on an as-needed basis at least until the end of the year.

Wilhite, senior editor of numis-

matics for Krause Publications, also plans to retire at the end of 1999. He moved to Iola, Wisconsin, in 1976, and began work for Krause, creating price guides and eventually serving as editor of *Coin Prices* magazine. More recently, he edited the *Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money* and functioned as editor of *Numismatic News*. In retirement, he hopes to continue to attend coin shows and pursue his collecting interests—tokens and National Bank notes relating to his home town of Hutchinson, Kansas.

## Old ANA Journals Bring Big Bucks

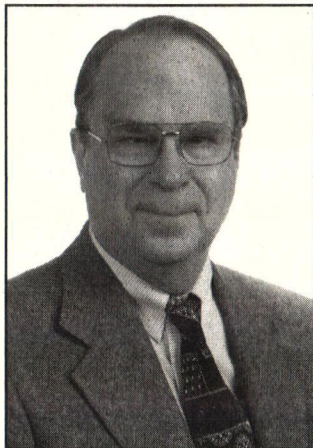
In 1888 Dr. George F. Heath, a country doctor in Monroe, Michigan, published a four-page leaflet,

*The Numismatist*, in which he listed his coin needs and discussed numismatic topics. Three years later, he formed the American Numismatic Association, and *The Numismatist* more or less became the organization's official journal.

What's become of those early volumes of *The Numismatist*? According to ANA member David Sklow, the first six volumes are the most highly prized by numismatic bibliophiles. Complete sets seldom appear at auction, he says, "but when they do, you better have your checkbook in hand!" Sklow notes that in November 1994 a set originally owned by Andrew C. Zabriskie (and ultimately part of the late Armand Champa's personal library) sold at auction for \$13,200.

Sklow's research has led him to

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**RECOGNIZED ABILITIES:** Former ANA assistant executive VP, ANA convention coordinator, ANA museum curator, ANACS consultant, exhibitor and judge, editorial consultant, member of many ANA committees. Chairman of two ANA conventions (Goodfellow, 1973), recipient of two ANA Presidential Awards, ANA Medal of Merit 1998.

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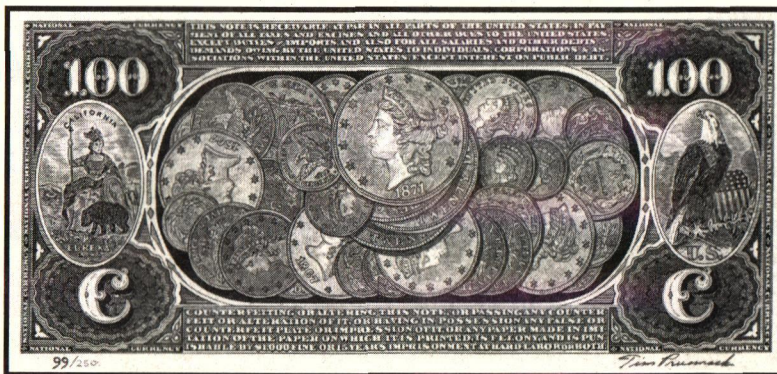
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believe that as many as 26 sets of the first six volumes can be traced to public offerings. "These volumes chronicle not only numismatic history, but also the very creation of the American Numismatic Association." For the consummate coin collector, the pinnacle of success would be to possess a 1913 Liberty Head nickel or an 1804 dollar. However, for the numismatic bibliophile, Sklow believes that owning the first six volumes of *The Numismatist* is a crowning achievement.

## Artist Debuts New "Money Masterpiece"

Money artist Tim Prusmack has unveiled his newest creation—a hand-drawn rendition of the back of a \$100 National Gold Bank note of



California originally produced in the 1870s. Part of his series entitled "Money Masterpieces," the work took Prusmack nearly three months to complete.

The uniface replicas, limited to a printing of 250, are individually numbered and signed by the artist and priced at \$25 each, plus \$4

Tim Prusmack's newest "money art" replicates a \$100 National Gold Bank note from the 1870s.

postage and handling. For more information, contact Ashby-Ferguson, Ltd., 4321 Gator Trace Dr., Ft. Pierce, FL 34982-6806; telephone 561/464-6391; or fax 561/464-3461. •



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# Legends of the Little Orphan Annie

U.S. COINAGE

Whether for love of money or just a good story, a Kansas City collector set out to make a name for the 1844 Seated Liberty dime.

IN DECEMBER 1930, the *Little Orphan Annie* radio program debuted on WGN radio in Chicago. The following April, an equally fictional saga was originated in the pages of *Hobbies* magazine by one Frank C. Ross of Kansas City. The radio program, later sponsored by Ovaltine, lasted until 1943, but the legend of the so-called "Little Orphan Annie" dime of 1844, as told by Ross, has survived considerably longer.

## The Orphan Lives

THE ORPHAN ANNIE character goes back to at least 1885, when the poet James Whitcomb Riley penned "Little Orphant Annie." The poem gained wide exposure, but the Little Orphan Annie character wasn't popularly known until 1924, when Harold Gray began drawing the cartoon strip for the *New York News*. The character reached its greatest audience in the 1930s, when it was carried by more than 500 newspapers in North America, and Hollywood released Orphan Annie films in 1932 and 1938. Whether Gray's character was inspired by the Riley poem is unclear; Gray gave at least two differing accounts of its origin.

Frank Ross was born in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1872, moved to Missouri as a small child, and spent most of his life in Kansas City, where he worked as an insurance adjuster. *Hobbies* was a magazine dedicated to the collecting of almost anything, including stamps, coins, books, glass and antiques. (In later years, the periodical focused more on antiques and today is published under the title *Antiques and Collecting Magazine*.)

Ross' "Numismatic Thoughts" column ran in *Hobbies* from 1932

by Leonard Augsburger  
ANA 159558



Little Orphan Annie debuted in the funny papers in the mid 1920s. By 1931 thousands followed her escapades on radio.

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE  
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## Frank Ross' Legends of the Little Orphan Annie

.....

The 1844 dimes were re-melted at the mint.

—HOBBIES magazine, April 1931

The dimes were improperly alloyed, making them susceptible to friction.

—HOBBIES magazine, April 1931

The coins were lost in a shipwreck.

—HOBBIES magazine, April 1931

Silver coins were overweight between 1834 and 1853, and the 1844 dimes were melted by speculators. (Ross failed to explain what happened to all the other silver coinage minted during this period.)

—HOBBIES magazine, April 1932

The coin's reported mintage (72,500) probably was wrong, just like the total number of dollars (19,750) thought to have been dated 1804.

—HOBBIES magazine, May 1934

**After a lull of several years, with no mention of the Orphan Annie dime, Ross started making references to the coin's 100th anniversary, and the tales began to get a bit taller.**

In the early 1850s, there was a lack of small change in the California mining districts. Of the 72,500 1844 dimes (all of which reportedly still were at the Philadelphia Mint), 70,000 were shipped west and stolen by bandits, who buried the coins and were unable to recover them before they died. As usual, no sources were given, though Ross commented, "The Sherlock Holmeses of numismatism when baffled turn the solving of their mysteries over to Legend, and armed with her legend-license she always does a good job." (This sort of legend probably doesn't deserve a license.) He also failed to mention the miners' historical disdain of small change.

—HOBBIES magazine, March 1944

During the Mexican war of 1848, a shipment of 1844 dimes was dispatched to troops in need of small change. (Ross conveniently neglected to mention the improbability of the Mint stockpiling these coins for several years.) To woo the girls in Mexico City, the soldiers made bracelets out of the dimes, which subsequently were melted and reminted into Mexican coinage.

—NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK, February 1946

A New Orleans bank requisitioned the Treasury for 100,000 dimes; the shipment naturally included most of the 1844s. The coins were shipped on a boat that subsequently sank during a storm. Exactly why a New Orleans bank would request dimes from the Philadelphia Mint rather than the New Orleans Mint was not explained.

—HOBBIES magazine, April 1949





SOME OF HIS tales are so outrageous by modern standards that one wonders how they ever managed to generate genuine interest . . .

through 1953; prior to this, his letters were published in the numismatic section as well. Over the years, he made more than 20 references to the Little Orphan Annie dime of 1844.

His first appeared in the April 1931 issue. Frank Ross stated that the coin's rarity was an "unexplained" mystery, and then offered several possible explanations. Throughout the history of his column, Ross suggested many ideas, but never once offered any real evidence to back his tales. Indeed, he always referred to his stories as "legends" and didn't make much effort to cloak his speculations. His only sure claim was that the coin was, in fact, rare.

Some of his tales (see page 262) are so outrageous by modern standards that one wonders how they ever managed to generate genuine interest in the 1844 Seated Liberty dime. However, one needs to keep in mind that coin collecting was much different in the 1930s and that the casual reader of a magazine such as *Hobbies* had very little reason to disbelieve anything he read.

## Ross' Rogues

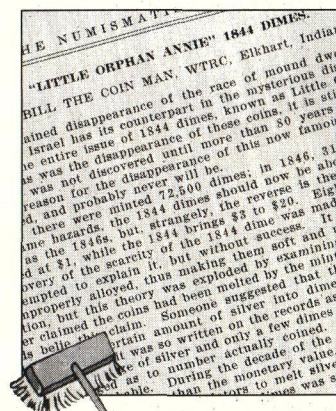
OTHERS PICKED UP on the legend, including ANA life member William Brimelow (known as "Bill the Coin Man"), who hosted a show about coins on WTRC radio in Elkhart, Indiana, where he operated a novelty store. In the October 1935 issue of *The Numismatist*, he recounted many of the Orphan Annie stories and openly speculated on the rarity of the 1844 dime, stating, "Giving up in despair the numismatist turned the solving of the mystery over to the only true solver of intricate problems and historical incidents—LEGEND." Frank Ross most assuredly had a copy of this article in front of him when he wrote his column for the March 1944 issue of *Hobbies*, a portion of which is quoted on the opposite page. Brimelow noted other legends as well, suggesting that all the coins were melted in the Chicago Fire in 1871, or that they were swept away in the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, flood in 1889. (One questions how he missed New York's great blizzard of 1888.)

Harry Bosley, a friend of Ross' from Kansas City, on several occasions made reference to the 1844 dime in the numismatic press. In the March 1953 edition of *Hobbies*, a letter to the editor signed by "H.B., Mo." inquired why the 1844 dime was so scarce and why it was named "the Little Orphan Annie." The letter most likely was written by Bosley, who very well knew the answers! Bosley's comments also appeared in print in *The Numismatist* in December 1957, retelling as fact Ross' story from the

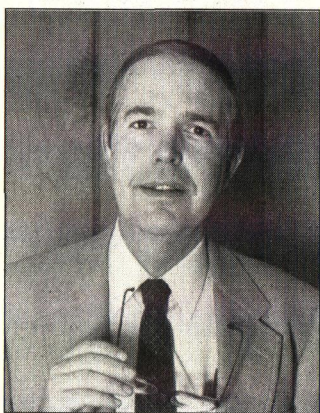
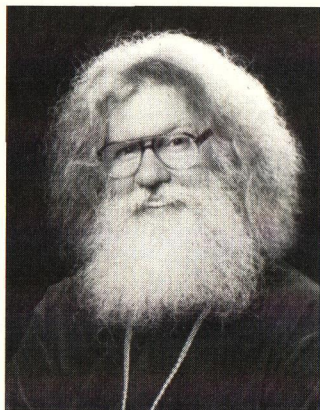


TOM MULVANEY ENTERPRISES

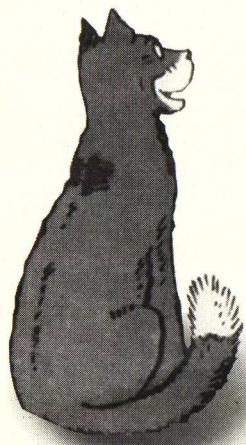
The 1844 dime was discussed at some length in *Hobbies* magazine and *The Numismatist*.







Numismatic researcher Walter Breen (top) offered conflicting stories about the Orphan Annie dime. Noted author Q. David Bowers (bottom) came to believe the coin's reputation exceeded its true value. ANA ARCHIVES



... BREEN BELIEVED THAT Ross had a cache of 1844 dimes, perhaps about 50 pieces, and that his promotion brought him a quick profit.

.....

March 1944 issue of *Hobbies*.

Even R.S. Yeoman's *Guide Book of United States Coins* (the "Red Book") took these stories seriously enough to repeat most of them in an early edition, going so far as to clearly state, "The dimes of 1846 for instance are much more plentiful though less than half as many were struck."

### The Experts

WALTER BREEN'S IDEAS about the 1844 dime were conflicting. Terry Brand, a western collector with an affinity for the issue, discussed the Orphan Annie with Walter Breen. According to Brand, Breen believed that the Orphan Annie attribution preceded Ross, but had no further details. But Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* does credit Ross with the coin's nickname. Based on the nation's interest in the Orphan Annie character, which started to gain momentum in 1924, the attribution likely came after that date. This does not confirm that Ross named the coin, but it does place him close to the "scene of the crime," as it were.

Also according to Brand, Breen believed that Ross had a cache of 1844 dimes, perhaps about 50 pieces, and that his promotion brought him a quick profit. Breen suggested to Brand that once the Orphan Annie stories spread, Ross simply kept repeating them, since they made good copy. Finally, in his *Encyclopedia* Breen stated that Ross gave no reason for the Orphan Annie name, but this is not true. In his April 1931 column in *Hobbies*, Ross clearly painted the coin as the neglected orphan of the numismatic world, a reference Breen simply missed.

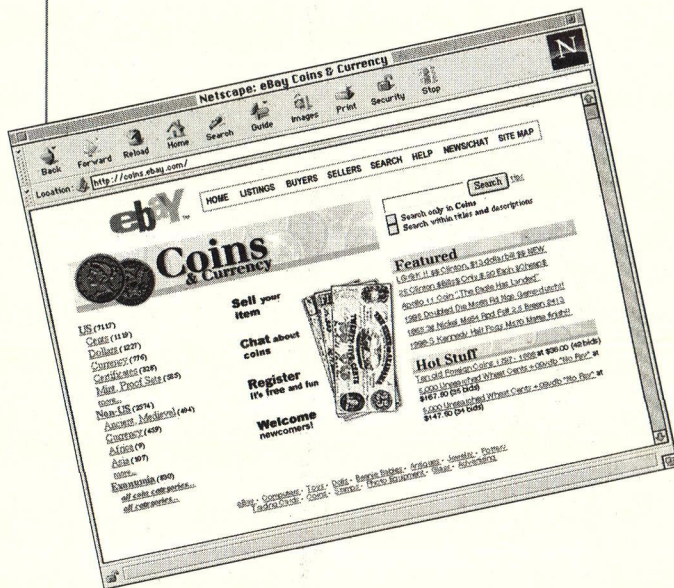
Q. David Bowers, too, has wavered in his opinions. His *United States Dimes, Quarters, and Half Dollars*, published in 1986, echoes much of the material found in the October 1935 issue of *The Numismatist*. He gives some credence to the legends surrounding the coin, stating, "For some mysterious reason, very few of these dimes are still available," and that 1846 dimes are much more abundant, despite having less than half the mintage of the 1844. However, in his description of the 1844 dime in the 1996 Eliasberg sale, Bowers indicated that he felt the coin was far longer on fame than on true rarity (as compared to the 1846 dime), and the auction results certainly proved his point: the 1844 realized \$88,000, and the 1846 realized only \$13,750. Both coins were graded Proof-65.

Don Taxay, writing in the *Comprehensive Catalog and Encyclopedia of*  
*continued on page 315*



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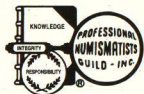
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# New Jersey's St. Patrick Coins

In 1682 New Jersey accepted copper coins from Dublin, bearing an image of St. Patrick, as legal tender.

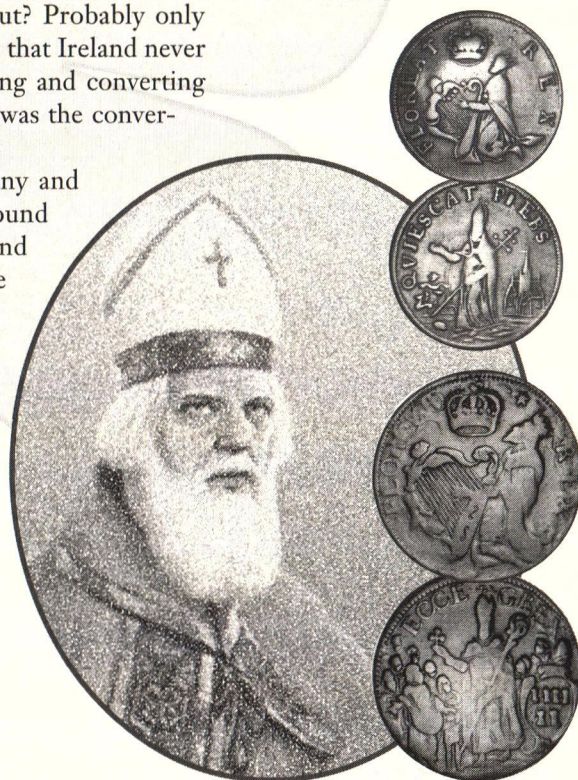
by Norm Applebaum

**A**LTHOUGH HE'S KNOWN as the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick was born a Scotsman. He traveled to Ireland 1,500 years ago on a mission to preach to the Celts. Did he drive the snakes out? Probably only the two-legged type, since it's thought that Ireland never had any reptiles. St. Patrick did his job well, preaching and converting the Celts to Christianity. The highlight of his career was the conversion of the Irish King Aengus.

The good saint appears on the reverse of halfpenny and farthing copper pieces made in Dublin, Ireland, around 1670. The halfpenny shows St. Patrick preaching and bears the inscription ECCE GREX ("Behold the Flock"). The farthing features St. Patrick driving out the snakes and carries the legend QVIESCAT PLEBS, which translates "May the People Be at Ease." Depicted on the obverses of both coppers is the Irish king, playing the harp.

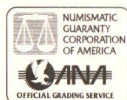
A large shipment of the coins was brought to colonial New Jersey. They were made legal tender throughout the colony by an act of the General Assembly in 1682. Today, these St. Patrick coins have come to be known among collectors as Mark Newby tokens, named after the man who imported them. Silver proofs exist, but they are quite rare, costing several thousand dollars or more. A one-of-a-kind gold farthing also is known and is nearly priceless.

*This article by the late Dr. Norman Applebaum was adapted from a script he wrote for the March 17, 1993, edition of the ANA's MONEY TALKS radio program.*



Obverses of the St. Patrick—or Mark Newby—farthing (top) and halfpenny (bottom) show a crowned king playing the harp; the reverses show St. Patrick.





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|----|-----------|----------|---------|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 2  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 3  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 4  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 5  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 6  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 7  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 8  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 9  |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
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| 12 |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
| 13 |           |          |         |              |                                  |                   |  |
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# Some Observations on Early Dollars

Flowing Hair and Draped Bust dollars offer diversity and enchantment to collectors who appreciate their important position in the history of American coinage.

by John J. Haugh  
ANA 16756



Actual Size: 39mm

**As part of our first truly national coinage, the 1794 Flowing Hair silver dollar boosted the United States government's prestige.**

**A**FTER TWO CAREERS and raising four children, I finally found time to return to my interest in classic United States coinage. Following brief and intense affairs with Morgan dollars and Indian Head cents, as a collector and part-time dealer I gravitated toward the Flowing Hair and Draped Bust silver dollars of 1794-1803. They now are my sole focus.

To more fully appreciate the pivotal role of these early dollars in America's development, one must ponder several historical and economic precedents. Ancient Greek and Roman authorities minted coins in silver, and in A.D. 755 a 900-year tradition of silver coinage began (when the French government issued silver coins for general use) and ran until the mid 1960s (when governments began to universally replace "hard" money with debased "fiat" coinage).

Prior to 1794, trade and commerce in our infant nation were based on barter, foreign coinage of real value (for example, Spanish and Dutch), and/or paper currency of dubious value and spotty acceptance, hindering the growth of a truly national, interconnected economy. The appearance in 1794 of a national silver coinage gave the unstable, new government an immensely powerful boost in prestige and acceptance (both psychological and real) here and abroad. Enthusiasm for the coinage was such that merchants initially gave it more than face credit.

Though often viewed as resting somewhere in a sleepy backwater of numismatics, our first silver dollars were, in fact, the linchpin of each of the above points. As Kenneth Bressett stated in his foreword to Q. David Bowers' reference *Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars of the United States*, "The dollar is seen as a symbol of the strength and financial power of this nation, and an icon of all that it represents."



ALL WHO HAVE studied early dollars recognize their extremely low survival rate. Walter Breen suggested that no more than 4 percent . . . survives in all grades.

.....

### Production and Survival

OFFICIAL MINT RECORDS indicate a total production of 1,439,196 early dollars (EDs) dated 1794 through 1803. Bowers concludes that 1,431,758 were minted. Both counts include the nearly 20,000 dollars dated 1803, but struck the following year. (Producing coins bearing the previous year's date was a common practice at the time.) While there are ongoing debates on how many EDs actually were minted with given dates, the consensus is that the entire production of Flowing Hair and Draped Bust dollars was slightly more than 1.4 million.

All who have studied early dollars recognize their extremely low survival rate. Walter Breen suggested that no more than 4 percent of the original mintage survives in all grades. Bowers, who conducted an extensive study on the subject along with Mark Borckardt, concludes that from 43,000 to 76,000 EDs remain, suggesting a survival rate of 3 to 5 percent.

Why did so many EDs vanish? On at least two occasions early on in our history, sudden surges in the value of silver created an opportunity for profit, prompting many to exchange dollars for paper currency at par. These coins were then melted and refined to the necessary or desired purity level, resulting in a gain.

In its own peculiar way, the success of the first silver dollar series sowed the seed of its own demise by increasing confidence in government money. As the federal government's reputation for stability improved and commercial activity increased commensurate with American expansion, heavy coinage became less desirable than lightweight paper money in higher denominations. Checks drawn on banks could generally be relied upon. The revered silver dollar, heavy and difficult to transport in quantity, was less favored.

The populace became not just willing, but actually anxious, to exchange heavy, clumsy silver dollars for paper money. The French in particular were adept at seizing the opportunity, engaging agents in the United States to buy up our silver coinage to be melted, refined and reminted into French coins. While this is not the only reason so few EDs survive, it is a major factor.

To put the relative scarcity of early dollars in perspective, compare the mintage of the entire series—1.4 million—with that of the 1881-S Morgan dollar—12.7 million. The number of existing Mint State (MS) EDs is even more dramatic. The Professional Coin Grading Service and Numismatic Guaranty Corporation have graded more than 170,000



Actual Size: 39mm

**The Draped Bust obverse, introduced in 1795, was combined with a Heraldic Eagle reverse in 1798.**



UNLIKE SO MANY Morgans, tens of millions of which simply were stored in Mint bags, EDs do not exist in pristine condition, for they circulated extensively.

.....

1881-S Morgans—and less than 300 EDs—MS-60 or higher.

Buttressing the position of those who believe in a low survival rate for the 10-year series (35,000 to 50,000 pieces) is the number of extant pieces for 1794. Of the documented mintage of 1,758 pieces, most experts estimate that 125 to 135 remain, and it is the near-unanimous belief of ED specialists that there can be no more than 150 survivors.

As the 1794 was the first dollar coin struck in the United States and distributed in significant part to high government officials and members of Congress, one would expect its survival rate to be far higher than that for subsequent years. Yet, less than 8.5 percent of the 1794 mintage survives. It seems reasonable to assume the survival rate of the 1794 is at least twice the balance of the entire series. It is logical then to accept Breen's opinion that no more than 4 percent of the entire ED production of 1.4 million has survived (less than 56,000). Personally, I concur with the consensus of ED specialists that not much more than 45,000 survive in any condition.

Unlike so many Morgans, tens of millions of which simply were stored in Mint bags, EDs do not exist in pristine condition, for they circulated extensively. EDs are big (39.5mm) and hefty (26.956g). Indeed, they are the largest and heaviest United States silver coins ever minted for general circulation. (I sometimes refer to the 1794 dollar as the "John Wayne" of American coinage.)

Minted on crude machinery and imperfect planchets, with numerous design changes (ranging from the trivial to the major) and die pairings, EDs offer a seemingly endless challenge. Indeed, despite the passage of more than 200 years and several generations of serious analysis, just two years ago two distinct, new die varieties of 1795 Flowing Hair were identified and widely reported.

Most EDs have defects or problems, the products of the crude minting process of the day or the results of use or abuse. Most EDs experienced extended use (and/or abuse). Well over 90 percent of the surviving pieces show extensive wear or have some problems, ranging from the trivial to the extreme. Few EDs were diverted from circulation, as coin collecting as we know it today essentially did not exist in the United States in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

I know of no "perfect" specimen, although the Eliasberg specimen of 1795 Draped Bust sold in 1987 is awesome. Those who attempt to collect these early dollars, especially those accustomed to coins in mint state condition, initially are shocked. If they stick with it, however, they learn



Actual Size: 39mm

**The reason a silver plug was placed at the center of some 1795 Flowing Hair dollars has been the subject of much debate among specialists in early dollars.**



THE LACK OF sufficient numbers of these coins (by date or variety) has, in turn, led to a lack of interest on electronic trading networks . . .

.....

to accept and appreciate the series, warts and all.

Proof EDs do not exist, save for restrikes referred to as “novodels,” created (clandestinely, in large part) long after production ceased. (The 1804 dollar, created decades after the series ended, also is considered a novodel, although most ED specialists consider it to be a fantasy piece, as it was not part of the regular series.) Other ED collectors contend that “novodel” is merely a fancy term for “counterfeit.”

The absence of sufficient numbers of these coins (by date or variety) has, in turn, led to a lack of interest on electronic trading networks and to bid prices quoted in the “Greysheet” being almost pathetically below the real market value.

Major dealers seem to have no interest in advertising or promoting EDs; they simply cannot obtain sufficient numbers to justify the expense and effort involved. Hence, fewer collectors take the time to become enchanted enough with the series to seriously commit to it—though the number is growing significantly.

### The Silver Plug

ONE OF THE more fascinating aspects of studying and collecting early dollars is the extraordinary variety of designs, die varieties and die states. Some Flowing Hair dollars minted in 1795, for example, have a silver “plug” in the center. Most experts believe 30 to 50 exist; a few surmise 80 or more survive. Roughly 8mm in diameter, this curious anomaly was not mentioned in books or articles on Flowing Hair dollars for nearly 200 years. Both John W. Haseltine and M.H. Bolender missed it in their seminal studies.

Although many noted numismatists are given (or try to take) credit for having “discovered” the silver-plugged variety, anecdotal stories convincingly demonstrate that “coin doctors” were the first to encounter the plugs decades ago when, in the process of heating some 1795s in an attempt to improve their appearance, a “circle” would pop out. One coin doctor—long since retired—confided to me he had experienced that phenomenon three times. He gently tapped the “popout” back into the coin. For obvious reasons, these findings were not reported to the coin media.

Bowers described the curiosity in 1981, but was unsure what it was. By the early 1990s, several numismatists—including Bowers, Bressett,

*continued on page 329*



Actual Size: 39mm

Like thousands of early dollars, this 1795 example shows “adjustment marks,” parallel grooves created when the planchet was filed to reduce (that is, “correct”) its weight before it was struck.



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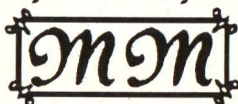
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# Gold Donatives of Gdańsk

Struck in Poland in the 16th and 17th centuries, exquisite gold pieces combined the best features of coins and commemorative medals.

**D**URING THE RULE of the Polish kings (1582-1685), beautiful gold issues called “donatives” were minted in Gdańsk (Danzig). These unique pieces of art reflected the high cultural standards and economic status of this wealthy, influential city. (In fact, Gdańsk was the most important regional port along the Baltic Sea during the late Renaissance and baroque eras.) The intriguing issues derive their name from their use as city donations to visiting kings and royally appointed officials and emissaries. Categorized as a hybrid of gold coins and medals, donatives are identified in terms of gold ducats, but these pieces did not circulate as regular issues.

This special category of coinage existed only to fulfill the local custom in the cities of Gdańsk and Toruń of presenting a visiting monarch a small barrel of gold coins minted for the occasion. It was not a gift without substantial profit potential. The city benefited considerably by the king's presence. A royal entourage often stayed in the town for a period of several weeks or months, spending lots of money on food, wine and various forms of entertainment. Also on these occasions, wealthy merchants had the opportunity to lobby the king for special trade privileges.

The oldest known gold donative was struck in 1552 for King Sigismund Augustus and bore the the following inscription: *MONUMENTUM REGIAE CIVITATIS GEDANENSIS* (“monument of the royal city of Gdańsk”). *Czapski Polish Coins* lists a total of 68 numismatic pieces described as “donatives.” The specimens are categorized as 54 gold and 6 silver Gdańsk, and 8 gold Toruń minted in the following years of each monarch's reign:

- Stephen Báthory—1582 and 1585
- Sigismund III—1614, 1617, 1619 and 1631

by Stan Garczynski



Actual Size: 34.5mm

**This 10-ducat donative was issued to honor King Stephen Báthory (1575-86).**





Actual Size: 47.5mm

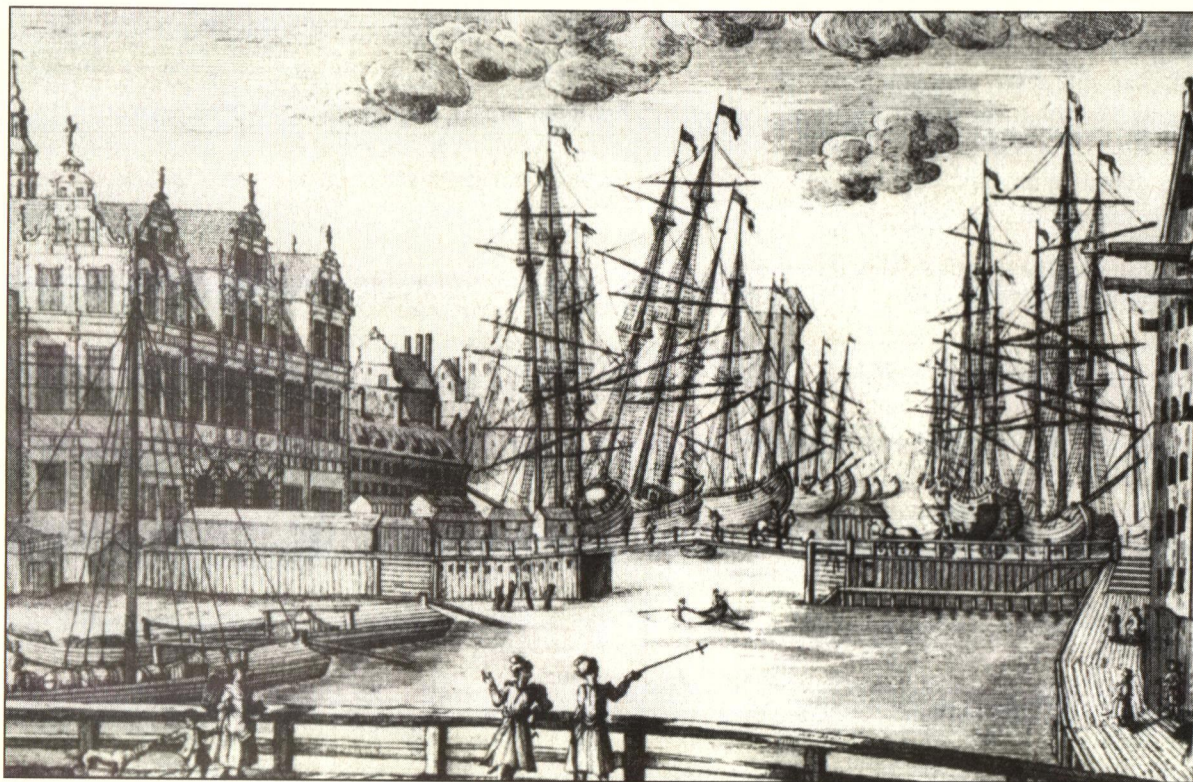
**This 1614 donative of King Sigismund III was valued at 10 ducats. Port of Gdańsk (1765), an illustration by F.A. Lohrmann, pictures the thriving seaport. With Central Europe and Prussia to the west, Russia to the east and the Vistula River leading to Poland's interior, Gdańsk was strategically situated at the crossroads of commerce and sea travel.**

- Wladyslaw IV—1634-35, 1644-45 and 1647-49
- John Casimir—1649-51, 1654-56, 1658-59 and 1666
- Michael Wisniowiecki—1670
- Jan III Sobieski—1685

The majority of gold donatives—representing various values—were issued during the reigns of Kings Wladyslaw IV and John Casimir. King Sigismund III's reign produced only a 20-ducat donative. Silver specimens were issued solely under the auspices of Wladyslaw IV, Michael Wisniowiecki and Jan III Sobieski, and were intended as gifts for administrative officials and other lesser personages.

Regardless of composition, all donatives possess exceptional artistic value. Designed by the most accomplished sculptors of the time, the pieces display late Renaissance and decorative baroque styling. When combined with the era's improved mechanical striking technology, the pieces emerged as miniature works of art.

During the 100 years of their issuance, donatives remained basically the same. Certain influences, however, predominated at different times. The earlier donatives, created during the reigns of Stephen Báthory and Sigismund III and the early part of Wladyslaw IV's reign, display more of the characteristics of coins. All donatives of the John Casimir,





REMINISCENT OF THE style of commemorative medallions, donatives were issued only on special occasions, independent of regular economic requirements.

.....

Michael Wisniowiecki and Jan Sobieski eras, on the other hand, bear a closer resemblance to medals.

Characteristically, the obverses of all donatives carry an effigy of the reigning monarch, surrounded by his official title. Early pieces are crammed with decorative details, especially concerning the king's attire (such as his lace and jewelry), as well as regal symbols like ornate branches of palm trees waving above the clouds. The reverses vary. Early issues always show the crest of the city, two lions holding a shield with two crosses, and a crown on top. Panoramic views of the city are exceptionally accurate. One can identify the massive church of St. Mary, as well as the old Gothic City Hall with its high, slender tower topped with a statue of the Polish King Sigismund Augustus (holding a lance ornamented with the image of a ship).

Despite their non-circulating nature, donatives had much in common with legal-tender coinage. All were valued on a par with the gold content of a ducat—for example, 20, 10, 8 and so on, down to 1½ ducats. (No donative valued at 1 gold ducat was ever issued.) Along with a date, many specimens carried a number representing their value in ducats.

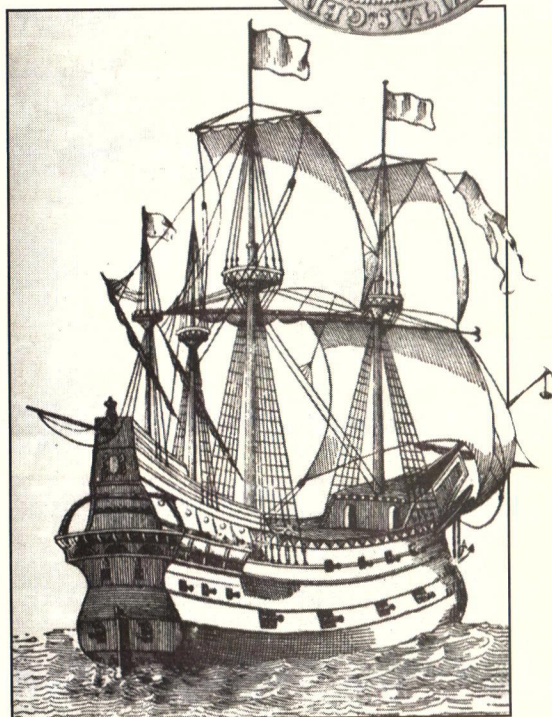
Reminiscent of the style of commemorative medallions, donatives were issued only on special occasions, independent of regular economic requirements. Also in keeping with medallic form, the donative bore an inscription reading EX AURO SOLIDO CIVITAS GEDANENSIS ("the royal city of Gdańsk ordered to strike in gold"), or sometimes simply REGIA CIVITAS ("royal city"), and usually included the artist's or die cutter's initials.

The majority of the original types of donatives have survived and are on display in Polish museums and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. They are considered rare examples of this numismatic art. •

*A third-generation numismatist and expert on Polish coins, Stan Garczynski is a member of the Texas Numismatic Association, Bellaire Coin Club and Greater Houston Coin Club (where he has served as vice president and editor of the "Double Shift" newsletter). He also is a founding member of the Polish American Numismatic Association and author of numerous articles on Polish numismatics.*



Actual Size: 35mm



**A 5-ducat donative of King Wladyslaw IV, issued in 1645, echoes the baroque style. Typical of later issues, the reverse shows a detailed view of the city.**



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| 1950 | \$400.00 | 1959   | \$16.00 | 1971-S    | \$5.90  | 1979-S | \$7.40  | 1988-S | \$7.00  |
| 1951 | \$299.00 | 1960   | \$12.00 | 1972-S    | \$6.40  | 1980-S | \$6.60  | 1989-S | \$6.00  |
| 1952 | \$150.00 | 1961   | \$8.00  | 1973-S    | \$8.55  | 1981-S | \$8.25  | 1990-S | \$9.50  |
| 1953 | \$105.00 | 1962   | \$8.00  | 1974-S    | \$8.75  | 1982-S | \$5.25  | 1991-S | \$16.50 |
| 1954 | \$65.00  | 1963   | \$8.00  | 1975-S    | \$9.15  | 1983-S | \$5.90  | 1992-S | \$12.75 |
| 1955 | \$60.00  | 1964   | \$8.00  | 1976-S    | \$9.15  | 1984-S | \$8.00  | 1993-S | \$30.00 |
| 1956 | \$32.00  | 1968-S | \$5.35  | 1976 3pc. | \$14.00 | 1985-S | \$6.35  | 1994-S | \$15.25 |
| 1957 | \$13.00  | 1969-S | \$5.35  | 1977-S    | \$8.20  | 1986-S | \$12.20 | 1995-S | \$55.00 |
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# A Century of Numismatics—1901-2000

**L**AST MONTH'S COLUMN took numismatics through the turbulent '60s. It was a time of explosive growth in the rare coin market. Escalating prices and new hobby organizations drew in hundreds of thousands of new collectors. Still, except for the occasional news story about a popular subject (such as the 1960 "small date" cents or the end of silver coinage), the collecting of coins, medals, tokens and paper money mainly played to the numismatic community.

## The '70s: National Recognition

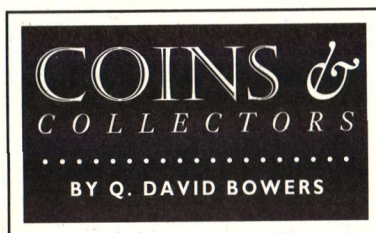
In the 1970s, public perception of the hobby changed. Numismatics went national. It became a popular pastime, one that garnered serious attention from the media. Coin dealing became big business indeed, with large amounts of money changing hands (pun intended). These were exciting times. Many factors contributed to this metamorphosis. Some of these influences deserve discussion in this month's column.

## The Gold and Silver Market

Precious metals—gold and silver—dominated the news in the 1970s. While market action focused specifically on bullion, the hobby of numismatics enjoyed much spillover interest. Daily headlines fed the public's fascination—especially toward the end of the decade, when silver prices jumped from \$2 to nearly \$50 per ounce, and the Hunt brothers tried to corner the market. The price of gold bullion zoomed into the stratosphere from \$35 to almost \$1,000 per ounce. All of this was heady stuff for numismatic

novice and expert alike.

Meanwhile, on August 14, 1974, President Gerald Ford signed legis-



lation permitting American citizens to own gold bullion. This was a landmark event, because for 40 years it had been a federal offense to hold gold without first obtaining a special license. In 1933-34 President Franklin D. Roosevelt called in gold coins from banks and prohibited the public from holding or trading these coins (with some exceptions), as well as gold bars and bullion.

In a speech at The Johns Hopkins

University in 1975, Baltimore numismatist and financier Louis Eliasberg related this anecdote:

A story which I once read that impressed me was about two men who, in 1932, walked through the streets of Baltimore, one carrying a pint of whisky on his hip and the other carrying in his pocket six \$20 gold pieces. In 1932 the man who carried the whisky was violating the Prohibition law, and the man carrying the double eagles was within the law. Consider their plight when two years later, in 1934, the man carrying the gold pieces was violating the law, and the man with the pint of whisky was within the law.

(Eliasberg, a consummate scholar of American financial history, would get up on the proverbial soapbox and entertain listeners with true stories of Uncle Sam's strange laws, broken promises and endless inconsistencies. Of course, this is hardly news to



Participants at the opening ceremony of the ANA's 83rd Anniversary Convention in Miami, Florida, include (from left) Ed Rochette, Bob Hendershott, Americana Hotel General Manager Ed Eicher, Virginia Culver and George Hatie.



knowledgeable numismatists, who realize the government has carte blanche in this regard. We are all at the mercy of Uncle Sam—who regularly changes the rules, often illogically and apparently without much feeling for the affected citizens. One need only study United States paper money—and read inscriptions such as PAYABLE IN 10 SILVER DOLLARS or PAYABLE IN GOLD COIN—to realize that our dear uncle in Washington has not always kept his word . . . However, perhaps we'll pursue that topic another time.)

### **Inflation and Precious Metals**

After 1974, many citizens realized there was some comfort and security in possessing gold bars or ingots. Meanwhile, the nation's economy experienced record high inflation, soaring into what became known as the "double digits." Almost as fast as paper money was dropping in value, gold and silver were rising. The demand for precious metals became insatiable, and the aforementioned price rises occurred.

Like mushrooms after a summer rain, all sorts of "experts" popped up overnight. Television, direct mail and other media exhorted the public (especially the "upwardly mobile") to purchase as much gold and silver as possible. Not surprisingly, when prices fell after 1980, many people lost not only their shirts—but their pants as well.

Meanwhile, numismatics benefited from the economic situation. Many gold and silver "bugs" went on to discover rare coins. Someone might have purchased a sparkling double eagle, for example, and discovered it was more fun than routinely buying gold by the bar or ingot, and the cost was only a little bit more. Another person might have

bought a common-date \$20 and found it intriguing to learn that additional coins dated 1903, 1908 and so on also were available, and that mintmarks made a difference in price and value. Collectors thus were born.

A rising tide lifts all ships, it has been said. Sure enough, the market for non-precious-metal coins also experienced a rush of adrenaline. Before long, silver Massachusetts coins of 1652, medals from dies by Charles Cushing Wright, Indian Head cents of 1877, and Hard Times tokens made by Lewis Feuchtwanger rose in value. Even paper money, possessing no real intrinsic value, drew a growing audience. National Bank notes inspired enthusiastic buyers, as did legal tender notes of 1862 and fractional currency. Although there were a few bumps and glitches, coin and paper money values were on the rise.

### **Meanwhile, at the ANA . . .**

At the beginning of the decade, Edward C. Rochette, executive vice president of the American Numismatic Association, also was editor of *The Numismatist*. He skillfully captained the ANA ship through the rough seas that often churn around change and organizational evolution. If anyone ever deserved the title of "Mr. ANA," it is Ed Rochette. (Personal recommendation to the ANA Board of Governors from yours truly: Why not consider renaming your highest honor, the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, the Edward C. Rochette Award? After all, Zerbe was a rascal in many ways.)

In the early '70s, the ANA was comfortably situated in its new, Colorado Springs home (dedicated in 1967). ANA headquarters became the focal point for expanding numis-

matic activities that would, by decade's end, include a coin grading and authentication service, library, museum, seminars, conventions and much more.

ANA politics—as always—fueled much debate. As with religion, horse racing and peanut butter, opinions varied. Heated discussions and staunch positions marked the defense of every viewpoint. No doubt this was good. The ANA has always provided access and opportunity for members to express their opinions, and the result has been the emergence of a very strong association. Much like the federal government, the ANA organizational structure may encounter difficulties periodically, but a better operational formula has yet to be presented.

In the '70s, ANA presidents were distinctly different individuals, and each imparted a different flavor to the office:

Herbert Bergen, a successful oil man, brought along solid business expertise, sound financial judgment and good people skills. He also was a fine numismatist and at one time contemplated writing a book (but never did) on the varieties of early United States quarter dollars.

John Jay Pittman, a veteran collector since the '40s, was one of the most numismatically knowledgeable people ever to occupy the post. At the same time, he was one of the most traveled people in the hobby and knew just about everyone.

Virginia Culver was a collector of tokens and medals and brought this enthusiasm with her (something I, as a long-time fan of the series, appreciated). More important to ANA members, she had a winning personality and an effective way of working with people.

Virgil Hancock, a businessman



from the word "go," was accustomed to running an organization and functioning as commanding general of his army—sometimes, to the point of taking no prisoners. He saw things in black and white, but never in shades of gray. A displeased Hancock once fired all 25 ANA committees in one fell swoop! His intentions, however, were absolutely honorable, and he did a great deal to help establish the ANA's certification service and, later, grading service. I personally liked Virgil a lot.

Grover Criswell, the only surviving president from this era, was well known in the field of Confederate paper money and brought an entirely different flavor to the office. Considered a "fine fellow" in the social context, he enjoyed people and



**At the ANA's 1974 convention in Miami, Executive Vice President Edward Rochette (left) and board member John Jay Pittman exchange a congratulatory handshake.**

whatever he happened to be working on at the time. Enjoyment *is* the bottom line of any endeavor, and I dare say Criswell had a happier time being president than did Hancock.

George D. Hatie, whose presidency ushered out the '70s, ranks as one of the finest contributors the ANA has ever known. He generously bestowed his wisdom, legal counsel and winning personality on the organization for many years. George always thought before he spoke, expressing the positive, but keeping anything possibly unkind to himself. Indeed, he truly was "Mr. Nice Guy," and everyone liked him.

Of course, there's more to say about the ANA in the exciting '70s, and there's much more analysis of the hobby market to discuss. I look forward to next month. •



*Remy Bourne*  
NUMISMATIC LITERATURE SPECIALIST

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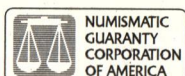


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# Frank Leach Caught a Thief

SOMEONE WAS STEALING gold at the Seattle Assay Office in 1905. Catching the thief became the job of San Francisco Mint Superintendent Frank Aleamon Leach.

Leach had begun his work as superintendent on August 1, 1897, after a career in the newspaper business. He told this story and others in his 1917 book, *Recollections of a Newspaperman*. In 1987 Bowers and Merena Galleries republished a portion of the book related to numismatics under the title *Recollections of a Mint Director*.

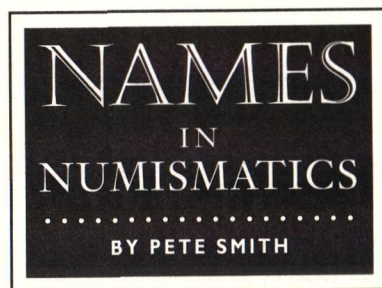
Gold deposited at the Seattle Assay Office came primarily from Alaska gold fields as dust mixed with a small amount of black sand. It was impossible to separate the sand before refining without losing some gold as well. Based on experience, losses during refining should have amounted to less than 5 percent. But some depositors at a Washington bank complained that their deposits yielded less than the usual amount of gold.

Detectives were assigned to check the background and habits of workers in the melting room, but found no one with expensive tastes or character flaws. There was no immediate prime suspect.

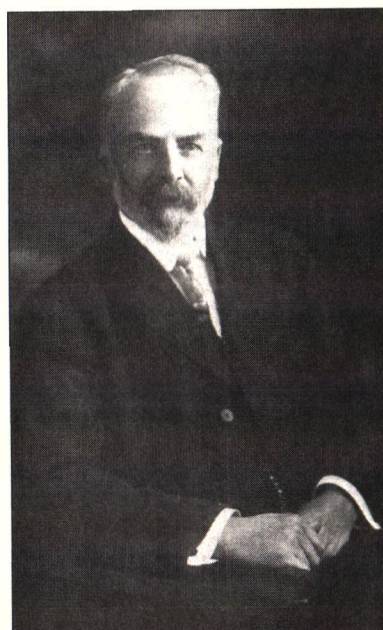
Leach watched the workers in the melting and refining rooms. He weighed deposits before and after refining. Losses still exceeded the anticipated 5 percent. Workers were careless with some procedures, but Leach was unable to find any evidence of criminal intent or identify the responsible party. Whoever was stealing the gold was so unconcerned about being caught, he con-

tinued even while the investigation was in process.

After two weeks of weighing and



testing with no progress, it was time for a thoughtful solution. Analysis showed that deposits made in the morning and refined in the afternoon were never out of the control of several Mint workers and produced results within expected tolerances. Deposits made in the afternoon and left with the cashier were



locked in the vault for refining the next morning. These deposits produced losses of about 3 percent above the limit. Suspicion fell on the cashier.

The cashier routinely came into the office early each day to prepare the deposits, supposedly so the refiners would not lose any time. Leach's search of the vault turned up a tin box containing a balance scale and small amounts of gold dust. He believed the cashier was replacing gold with an equal weight of black sand.

To confirm his suspicion, Leach obtained a quantity of gold dust and sifted out all the black sand. He arranged for delivery by messenger to the Assay Office one afternoon. When Leach retested the batch the following morning, it contained 3 ounces of new black sand and was missing 3 ounces of gold dust.

Secret Service agents arrested the cashier when he attempted to leave with his tin box. He also carried \$12,000 he had withdrawn from the bank that morning. Investigation revealed that he used an assumed name to obtain black sand from a remote location on Puget Sound. Over the previous five years, he had used more than a quarter ton of sand.

Leach and his assistants calculated the difference between the expected and actual losses during refining. They concluded the cashier had taken \$150,000 in gold over a five-year period.

The cashier had made deposits

**San Francisco Mint Superintendent Frank Leach solved the mystery of why a significant amount of gold deposited at the Seattle Assay Office was of less than normal fineness after refining.**



through a Washington bank in 1905, shortly after steamships arrived from Alaska. He explained he had mining interests in that area and, as an employee of the Assay Office, he could not make the deposits directly. No local deposit explained the cashier's thefts for 1903 or 1904.

Attendance records showed the cashier was never away from the office for more than two days at a time. Leach realized that an absence on Monday and Tuesday would allow the cashier four days to get to San Francisco and back. A \$10,000 deposit made at the Selby Smelting and Lead Company in San Francisco on November 18, 1903, corresponded with the cashier's absence. His description matched that of the depositor, although he used an assumed name. He accepted a dis-

counted payment for immediate settlement rather than waiting 24 hours for the results from refinement.

The cashier had married in December 1904 and traveled to New York with his new wife. Leach telegraphed officials at the New York Assay Office to see if they could match a large deposit with his visit. After an initial communication problem, the office matched the cashier with a deposit made under another assumed name.

A search warrant issued for the cashier's house, garage and outbuildings turned up some black sand. In the course of their search, detectives moved and restacked a cord of wood in the basement. Finally they shoveled and moved three tons of coal and found two bulging buckskin pouches beneath it. The pouches

contained about \$7,000 in gold dust.

The cashier pleaded guilty for the losses incurred in 1905. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, but released after only six. Less than ninety days after receiving his freedom, he was arrested for involvement in a counterfeiting scheme and went back to prison.

After eight years at the San Francisco Mint, Leach accepted an appointment as Director of the Mint in Washington, D.C. Although he found the job exciting and challenging, he missed his friends in California. An opportunity arose to return to the Golden State, and he accepted the position of general manager of the People's Water Company of Oakland. He left Washington on August 1, 1909, after exactly ten years' service with the Mint. •

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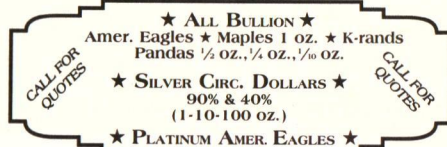
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Victor England, ANA 133667



# The Emperor's Throne: So Near, Yet So Far

**T**HE JANUARY INSTALLMENT traced the stories of the heirs to Rome's imperial throne who, for one reason or another, failed to fulfill their destinies during the Julio-Claudian and Flavian dynasties. The more settled political climate prevailing throughout most of the 2nd century saw fewer cases of frustrated ambition than the turbulent days of the "Twelve Caesars."

The first casualty of the Adoptive and Antonine era was L. Ceionius Commodus, selected by Hadrian for the succession in A.D. 136. Aelius Caesar, the name bestowed on Commodus following his selection, was not in good health and displayed no particular aptitude for a position of such awesome responsibility. There were many experienced administrators in Rome and the provinces who might rather have attracted the attention of the childless Hadrian.

One possible explanation is that Aelius Caesar was, in fact, the natural son of the emperor, though no evidence of such a relationship exists. Whether he possessed the abilities to be a good ruler we shall never know, for on the very first day of the new year A.D. 138, he fell victim to consumption, thus predeceasing by more than six months the emperor he was meant to succeed.

During his brief tenure of power, a surprisingly extensive coinage in gold, silver, brass and copper was produced by the mint of Rome in the name of Lucius Aelius Caesar. Some of the types commemorate his governorship of Pannonia, the post to which he was appointed to provide administrative experience. His portraits are splendidly realistic and depict a pleasure-

loving man in the prime of life with a thick, curly beard. His coins, when they are well preserved, are much

## PRESENTS FROM THE PAST

BY DAVID R. SEAR

prized by collectors.

Hadrian's second choice as heir was a distinguished senator and former proconsul of Asia with the impressive name Titus Aurelius Fulvus Boionius Antoninus. Some months after Hadrian's death, the new emperor was given the additional name Pius in recognition of his filial loyalty to his predecessor during a bitter dispute with his former senatorial colleagues over the posthumous honors due Hadrian.

Antoninus Pius ruled the Empire wisely for the following 22 years, and Hadrian's failure to select such a man as his original heir certainly tends to lend weight to the theory of Aelius' imperial parentage. L. Ceionius Commodus (better known by his later imperial name of Lucius Verus), son of Aelius Caesar, was only 7 years old at the time of his father's death, yet the dying Hadrian insisted that Antoninus adopt him and make him joint heir to the imperial throne with 17-year-old Marcus Aurelius, a youth of obvious talent and immense potential.

It is curious indeed that Hadrian should have gone to such extraor-

dinary lengths to secure the inheritance of this 7-year-old boy unless, of course, he was his own grandson. Antoninus did, in fact, have two sons of his own, but both apparently died in infancy. The portrait of one of them, Galerius Antoninus, appears on a series of "Greek Imperial" bronzes of uncertain mint in combination with a portrait of the emperor's deceased wife, Faustina Senior (cf. Sear, *Roman Coins & Their Values*, #1375).

In the first year of the joint reign of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus (A.D. 161), twin sons—Commodus and Antoninus—were born to Marcus and his wife, the Empress Faustina Junior, daughter of Antoninus Pius. The twins are depicted on the reverses of an extensive series of gold, silver and aes coins struck for their mother. The two baby boys are depicted seated on the imperial throne, with the accompanying legend SAE-CULI FELICITAS ("the happiness of the age") in celebration of the settlement of the succession.

Only Commodus was destined to survive and become his father's even-



Shown is a brass sestertius of Aelius Caesar (A.D. 137), Hadrian's original choice for the imperial succession.



tual successor in A.D. 180. Antoninus died in childhood, a fate later to be shared by a younger brother, Annius Verus, who did not survive beyond about A.D. 169.

The child's head appearing on the obverses of a series of anonymous copper quadrantes (cf. Cohen, *Médailles Impériales*, Vol. VIII, p. 270, #30-31) has been identified as that of Annius Verus, though the attribution has to be regarded as fanciful and unsubstantiated. But Annius Verus' portrait, with identifying inscription, does appear in combination with that of his elder brother Commodus on two rare bronze medallions issued within the period A.D. 165-69 (cf. Cohen, Vol. III, pp. 169-70, #1-2). Unfortunately, the sole rule of Marcus Aurelius' surviving son, Commodus (A.D. 180-92), was destined to be a catastrophe that would herald a long period of anarchy and decline in the 3rd century.

In the troubled period following the assassination of Commodus on the night of December 31, 192, three emperors ruled in Rome in rapid succession. The first was P. Helvius Pertinax, formerly governor of Britain, whose reign lasted a mere three months before he fell victim to a band of mutinous guards. The emperor had a son, Pertinax Junior, who was given the rank of Caesar. No Roman coins were struck in the name of the young prince, but the

mint of Alexandria in Egypt produced base silver tetradrachms, some of which carry a portrait of his mother, Titiana, in addition to his own effigy (cf. Sear, *Greek Imperial Coins & Their Values*, #2105-06).

Pertinax Junior survived his father's assassination, but did not, of course, gain his imperial inheritance. Ironically, he was to become a close friend of another ill-fated prince, P. Septimius Geta, younger son of the Emperor Septimius Severus. When Geta was murdered by his own brother Caracalla in A.D. 212, Pertinax Junior perished in the ensuing massacre of the young co-emperor's adherents, a cruel fate indeed for one who had once held imperial rank himself and survived the downfall of his father's regime.

Another principal in the drama of the civil wars of A.D. 193-97 was Decimus Clodius Albinus, governor of Britain at the time of the assassination of Pertinax. He refused to accept the disgraceful elevation of Didius Julianus who had "purchased" the throne from his predecessor's murderers. Feeling ran high in the provincial armies, and Albinus was proclaimed emperor by the British legions simultaneously with the elevations of Septimius Severus in Pannonia and Pescennius Niger in Syria.

All vowed to avenge the murder of Pertinax, but only one could be his successor and Severus had the greatest ambition and the vital geographical advantage. Having quickly advanced on Rome and taken possession of the capital, he easily disposed of the usurper Julianus and began to lay his plans for supremacy.

Albinus was placated by the offer of the rank of Caesar and the role of heir to the imperial throne, an exalted position emphasized by an extensive coinage in all metals issued



Not Actual Size

**Shown is a brass sestertius of Clodius Albinus (A.D. 194), whose acceptance of the rank of Caesar under Septimius Severus sealed his fate.**

under Severus' authority from the Rome mint. He was, of course, foolish to take the bait, as this left Severus free to concentrate on eliminating his other rival, Pescennius Niger, instead of having to fight simultaneously on two fronts.

With the defeat of Niger, Severus lost little time in deposing Albinus from his imperial office and declaring him a public enemy. The former Caesar countered by assuming the rank of Augustus and striking coins (mostly silver denarii) in his own name from the hastily reestablished Gallic mint of Lugdunum (modern Lyon). However, in the final struggle with Severus, he was defeated and took his own life.

Ironically, Albinus was well-liked and respected in Rome, and had he challenged Severus in 193, he might well have been the victor, perhaps changing the entire course of history in the 3rd century. As it was, Severus and his elder son Caracalla pampered the army and made them greedy, not only for money, but also for influence in the politics of the Empire. This was to be a recipe for disaster in the coming decades, a course of events that would see the disintegration of the system of government that had been so painstakingly constructed by Augustus two centuries before.

—continued in May •



**On the reverse of a silver denarius of their mother, Faustina Junior (A.D. 161), the twin boys Commodus and Antoninus are depicted as babies seated on the throne.**



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David Hall LM272





# Orphan Annie's Secret Legacy

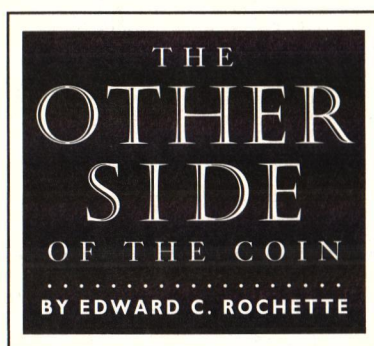
**R**ETURNING TO ACTIVE duty at ANA headquarters has its advantages. For one, I often get to read an article before it appears on the pages of our official journal, *The Numismatist*. Leonard Augsburger's "Legends of the Little Orphan Annie" (p. 261) is a delightful and informative treatise on one of the intriguing mysteries of our hobby—the 1844 dime. But I have an Orphan Annie story of my own.

Arriving in Colorado Springs on New Year's Eve 1967, I spent the first few weekends scouting the area for a place for my family to live. Manitou Springs was one suggestion. This picturesque resort community was comprised of less than 5,000 inhabitants, yet it was easily accessible, as it shared a common, city boundary with the west side of Colorado Springs.

In those days—as now—small motels, restaurants, antique and curio shops, and the usual variety of vacation amusements lined the town's main thoroughfare. Like many of the mammals dwelling in the nearby foothills, Manitou Springs hibernates from October to June, the off-season for the tourist trade. I must admit the lack of foot traffic along the main streets prejudiced my looking further into the town's real estate market, but not enough to keep me from visiting the enticing antique stores.

In 1967 Colorado Springs boasted a total population of about 70,000, the majority being retired military. With Fort Carson, the United States Air Force Academy, Ent Air Force Base and the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) within

its cosmopolitan area, the city was a natural place to call "home" following retirement.



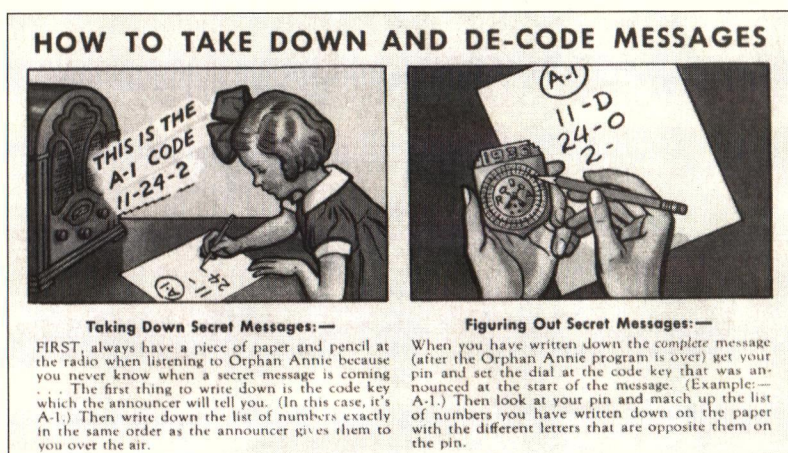
Manitou Springs' progressive merchants were quick to capitalize on the growing consumer market. Some of Manitou's tradesfolk added militaria to their stock of salable goods. Some items were genuine, but for those of questionable origin, the resourceful merchants created

some ingenious, impromptu fiction.

It was in an antique shop in Manitou that I acquired my first Orphan Annie premium since childhood, when I'd sent in three seals from Ovaltine tins and 10 cents in change for an official silver star ring identifying me as a member of Radio Orphan Annie's Secret Society.

Each year through the 1930s and on until 1943, when metal strategic to the war effort brought an end to such non-essentials as premiums, Orphan Annie offered her radio friends a secret decoder. Each year's issue was slightly different, with a new decoder and accompanying code that allowed Annie's cadre of fans to decipher her latest messages.

When I finally introduced myself to one antique dealer, telling him that I was with the American Numismatic Association, he reached under the counter and retrieved what on first glance looked like a



This excerpt from the booklet *Radio Orphan Annie's Secret Society 1936* shows members how to decipher Annie's coded messages. Other sections provide privileged information about the club's secret password, greeting, symbol, door knock, "wigwag" sign and colors.



medal. Gold in color and slightly larger than a silver dollar, the piece carried the monogram ROA and was dated 1939. Its function was identified by a legend that read SECRET DECODER. Incused on the reverse was a serial number, identified as the "Official Number." As I examined the piece carefully, fondly recalling memories of early childhood, the merchant proceeded to reveal the mysterious issue's "true" origin.

"This area," he said, "is home to a lot of retired military officers. They can leave active duty, but they always remain subject to call. The top brass belong to a group called the Retired Officers Association. See, right here, it says ROA. They continue to communicate by sending secret messages to one another."

I kept watching the merchant's



You no longer can send in seals from Ovaltine tins to get nifty premiums like these Radio Orphan Annie's Secret Society decoders, but you might find such memorabilia at a local antique shop.

eyes for a trace of a gleam, waiting for him to burst out laughing at any second. But, no, he was serious. I began to feel sorry for him. He must have grown up never knowing the fun of listening to radio adventures, never tasting Ovaltine.

I didn't have the nerve to tell him what it really was. I bought it with-

out explanation, and thus my second collection of Radio Orphan Annie secret decoders began. I have managed to find several, along with an embossed, quarter-sized Radio Orphan Annie's Secret Society membership pin, and a code book for 1936 . . . 15-21-18, 8-15-2-2-25, 3-1-14, 2-5, 6-21-14. •

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# Beware of Y2K Telemarketing Scams

**B**E ON YOUR guard against the newest round of telemarketing scams. Geared toward the coming millennium (Y2K), these schemes play on fears of what might happen when computers crash and the end of the world is near.

I'm one of those people who will always take a bet against the end of the world coming anytime soon—I figure I have nothing to lose. But any thought of impending doom sends many people off to buy all sorts of things that might prolong their existence. Telemarketers like this because it provokes people to buy lots of things they do not need.

The Y2K problem, however, is

quite different. There is no question there will be plenty of major inconveniences because of some comput-



ers' inability to recognize the year 2000. Note I said "inconveniences." I can't envision elevators stopping at the stroke of midnight, or traffic coming to a halt across the country.

More realistically, some accounts in banks and other savings institutions could be trapped in cyberspace. Telemarketers are just beginning to zero in on this aspect of Y2K, offering a range of precious metals and other ways to protect your wealth.

Numismatists are fortunate to know all about the role of money in stressful times. Sure, it's always wise to have some assets in gold and silver, and it might be sensible to have some extra cash in the form of paper money in case banks can't handle a rush by those fearing the worst. As a matter of fact, the government is busy printing extra paper money just to take care of any such situation.

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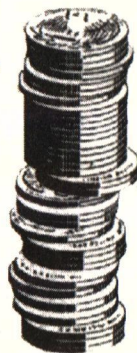
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But this isn't a time for panic; rather, it's a time to take stock of your assets and be sure you have a reserve of cash, gold, silver and some desirable coins to carry you through any hard times.

Any established coin dealer can help you acquire whatever you want in the way of emergency holdings. Be cautious of telemarketers who use scare tactics or try to sell something they know little or nothing about. Be especially cautious of individuals claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations or government agencies that offer protection against impending doom. Be skeptical of promoters who contact you repeatedly, stating that if you buy more of their merchandise you will have a better chance of survival. Be sure you receive and are satisfied with your purchases from any source.

If you believe you have been defrauded, file a complaint with the Consumer Response Center, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, or request one or all of these brochures from the same agency: "Swindlers Are Calling," "Telemarketing Fraud," "Telephone Investment Fraud" or "Prize Offers."

#### **File #579**

This story came to me secondhand, but supposedly it actually happened several years ago. An unsolicited package arrived in the mail. Labeled "cash prize," it contained 30 old Wheat cents of various dates. An enclosed letter said the company would not tell the value of the coins, except to say they were worth "at least 10 times their minted value."

The letter went on to state that the company was holding an additional 20 pennies that it could not release until the lucky winner sent \$12 for a 50-coin "Patriotic Display"

holder. An invoice stamped "final notice" also was included, probably to speed things up a bit. (Oh, by the way, the original 30 coins came with \$1.79 postage due!)

#### **File #580**

Somehow the *Titanic* keeps resurfacing—and it seems to have spawned more numismatic items than any treasure ships from the past. I still haven't seen the movie, so I don't know why this incident is so romantic or why so many people are looking for souvenirs. This ad confirms that a wave of interest still compels enthusiasts to pay some pretty stiff prices for anything even remotely related to the ill-fated ship.

In this case, it is a 1912 Liberty Head nickel, with no indication of condition. The coin is attractively mounted in a frame along with a color illustration of the ship. Additional material describes the ship and how it sank. The package sells for \$19.50 plus \$3.95 shipping.

#### **File #581**

This offer was good for only one week, so don't rush to your telephone. However, I'll tell you about it anyway, so you can be on the lookout should anything like this come your way. The doctor who received this mailing was told that the company was reserving 100 silver dollars in his name, and he must hurry to buy them before the limited supply was exhausted. The firm was able to acquire only 4,297 pieces, and supplies were going fast because so many silver dollars were being melted due to the "exploding" price of silver. (I guess we missed the explosion; the price seems to be going nowhere.)

The lengthy letter and promotional material enclosed with this offer told about a woman who

bought an 1895 Morgan dollar that is now worth more than 20 times what she paid for it. And it said the price of only \$19.90 per coin is more than \$10 less than what a competitor is charging.

To prove what a good bargain the coins are, the company guarantees to buy back any of these dollars for \$21.90 in the next 30 days. If any coins are from the Carson City Mint, the firm will buy them back for double the price. The condition, the offer says, is "mostly Brilliant Uncirculated to Extra Fine."

If this isn't incentive enough, when you order any of these Morgan dollars over the telephone, you will get, absolutely free, a bottle of "Miracle Nutrient" to keep you alive and healthy for a long time. This stuff suppresses aging, reduces body fat, restores sexual vigor, keeps your intellectual faculties sharp and is "the closest thing we've ever come to the Fountain of Youth."

#### **File #582**

I was surprised by this ad because I didn't think there was that much interest in Nazi items among the general public. The offering was for a set of four German notes of the Nazi era showing a swastika as proof of their genre. I don't have any problem with the notes, because I like paper money, and these are interesting issues.

The reader who sent me the advertisement was concerned about the high price. The four notes, said to be in average circulated condition, have a catalog value of \$12. I think one could buy such things from a dealer for that price or a bit less. They are common items that usually sell for about \$2 apiece. This offering prices them at \$79 for the set of four, plus \$4 shipping and handling. •



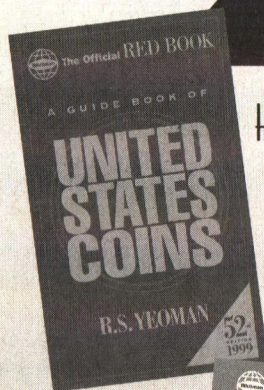
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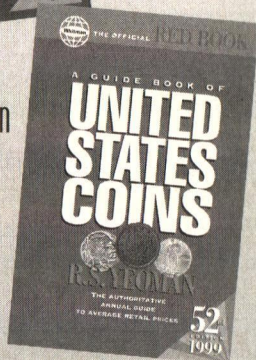


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**BOOKMARKS**  
.....  
**BY NAWANA BRITENRIKER**

## Sacramento Forum Offers Opportunities for Members

This month at the ANA's National Money Show in Sacramento, the Library Table will serve a new purpose. Instead of meeting your favorite authors, you will have a chance to speak face-to-face with ANA governors and staff.

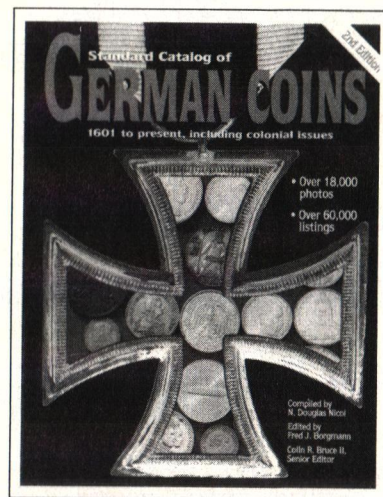
Generally, members can reach individual governors or staff by mail, E-mail, fax or telephone, but these exchanges are brief and limited. The National Money Show, however, offers the perfect opportunity for discussion. Consequently, on Saturday, March 13, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., governors and staff members will be available to address questions and concerns about the ANA.

Membership Director Rudy Bahr and Governor Helen Carmody-Lebo will field membership questions; Convention Director Brenda Bishop and Governor John Wilson will talk about the Convention Department; and Chief Financial Officer Ruthann Brettell and Governor Gary Lewis will address the subjects of finance and investment. I will pair up with ANA Vice President Scott Travers to discuss the Library. Education Director Gail Baker-Kraljevich and Governor Kay Lenker will focus on educational matters. Additionally, Curator Robert Hoge and Governor Tom Hallenbeck will listen to concerns about authentication and the ANA Museum, while Editor Barbara Gregory and Governor Will Rossman will handle issues concerning *The Numismatist*. Finally, Mediation Services Manager Kim Kiick, along

with Governor Gary Lewis, will explain the mediation process; Executive Director Edward Rochette and President Anthony Swiatek will address executive and administrative issues; and MIS Director Susie Nulty and Governor Bob Campbell will discuss the ANA's computer network and web site. Look for the complete schedule of "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about the ANA But Were Afraid to Ask" in your Sacramento convention program and at the ANA Library Table. Come prepared to take advantage of this unique forum.

On a completely different note, I wish to thank ANA member-dealers for their recent donations of replacements for lost books. The Library has initiated a preservation program that places single copies of books in a non-circulating reference section. Such was the case with James Haxby's four-volume *Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes, 1782-1866*, which is out of print. Under the auspices of the ANA Convention Department, we offered member-dealers extra "stars" for bourse table selections when they donated books from our "missing list." Thanks to them, the Library once again is able to circulate the Haxby books and several others.

■ Two new books deserve special mention this month. The second edition of the **Standard Catalog of German Coins, 1601 to Present, Including Colonial Issues** (ANA Library Cat. No. JG30.N5 1999), compiled by N. Douglas Nicol and edited by Fred J. Borgmann, recently was released. The 8½ x 11-inch, 1,064-page, paperback book contains numerous illustrations and additional features characteristic of Krause references, including coin histories, illustrated identifiers, au-



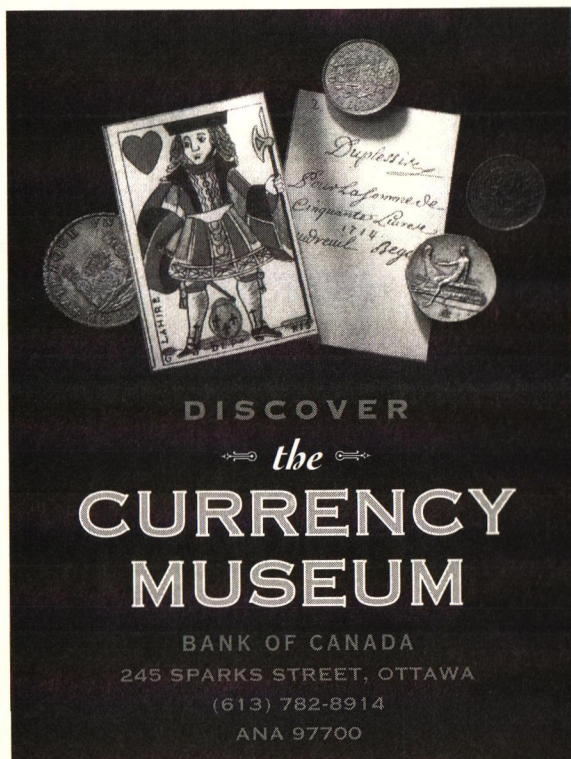
**A thoroughly revised and expanded reference work is available to collectors with the second edition of *Standard Catalog of German Coins*.**

thentication guides, charts and a glossary. It is available for \$59 from Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990; or see the ANA MoneyMarket listing on our web site at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) for book information and online ordering.

■ Volume 8 of **The Great Series of Chinese Dynastic Currency** (ANA Library Cat. No. KC20.M2 v8) comes to us courtesy of the efforts of George Fisher, a longtime Museum volunteer. All who know George are aware of his expertise in Asian numismatics, and he's kindly helped the Library acquire several important reference works in that subject area.

Edited by Fei-Hai Ma, this book is the fifth work in a projected 12-volume series and covers Qing and Republic silver sycee ingots, and silver and copper coins. With text written in Chinese, this enormous (10½ x 15-inch, 1,066-page) hardbound reference contains numerous color and black-and-white plates and rubbings, providing an indispensable reference on these intriguing pieces. •





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818 North Cascade Avenue • Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279 • Fax 719/634-4085



# Membership News



## Convention Features Candidate Forum

Candidates for the ANA Board of Governors will participate in a question-and-answer forum during a "town hall meeting" scheduled for the ANA's 1999 National Money Show in Sacramento, California, this month. Each candidate attending the forum will be given an opportunity to make an opening statement before questions are accepted from the numismatic press and the floor. Candidates who are unable to attend can designate a representative to make opening remarks on their behalf.

The forum will be held in Room 305 of the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 "J" Street, beginning at 6:15 p.m. on Friday, March 12.

## Postmark and Cachet Commemorate Show

A full-service post office, a special convention postal cancellation and a cachet will be available at the ANA's 1999 National Money Show in Sacramento, California, March 12-14.

"This will be a special treat for everyone attending the convention," ANA Convention Manager Brenda Bishop says. "Officials at the United States Postal Service in Sacramento are looking forward to being a part of the show."

Ralph Petty, who directs customer relations for the Sacramento Postal

Service, says, "Numismatics and philately have a number of similarities, and many people who are involved in one hobby also have an interest in the other. We plan to be there from the opening day through the close of the show on Sunday afternoon."

The ANA and Petty worked together to prepare the cancellation and cachet, both of which link the theme of the show with the 150th anniversary celebration of the California Gold Rush.

## Nominations Entered for 1999 ANA Election

Nominations have begun to arrive for the American Numismatic Association's upcoming election of officers. The offices to be vacated in 1999 because of expiring terms of incumbents, and to which new officers must be elected, are the presidency, vice presidency and all seven governors' seats.

As of February 3, the following members had received the required five club and five individual nominations. Nominations will be accepted through March 31. Nomination forms and guidelines can be obtained by contacting the ANA's Executive Offices; visiting the Association's web site at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org); or accessing the ANA's Fax-on-Request Service toll-free at 800/910-7224 (#201527).

### For President:

**H. ROBERT CAMPBELL**  
Salt Lake City, UT

### For Vice President:

**HELEN CARMODY-LEBO**  
Huntington Beach, CA  
*Nomination Accepted*

### For Governor:

**BRIAN E. FANTON**  
Hiawatha, IA

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# Membership News

## Treasure Hunt Planned for Sacramento Show

Twenty gold coins will be the top prizes in a "treasure hunt" planned for young collectors attending the ANA's 1999 National Money Show in Sacramento, California, March 12-14. All participants will be rewarded with scarce coins and related items as they search the bourse floor for questions in a numismatic quiz.

Treasure hunt organizer Walter

Ostromecki says young numismatists will be asked to complete "treasure map cards" by answering questions posted at dealer tables around the convention floor. Cards having all correct answers will be entered in a drawing, and the first 20 names selected from this pool will receive a Mexican gold 2 pesos.

Among the other material donated as prizes for the treasure hunt are a 1909-S VDB, a 1914-D and two 1931-S Lincoln cents; Indian

Head cents; steel cents; Buffalo nickels; Mercury dimes; United States Mint coin-collecting starter kits; and foreign coins and paper money.

Donors and sponsors include the ANA and its Representative Program; Professional Numismatists Guild; United States Mint; Sacramento Valley Coin Club; Vallejo Numismatic Society; Numismatic Association of Southern California; Western Wooden Money Association; Combined Organizations of

### DONATIONS

*Contributions for December 1998*

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# Membership News

Numismatic Error Collectors of America (CONECA); Council of International Numismatics; *Coin World*; Krause Publications; Whitman Coin Products; and Galaxie Designs.

The treasure hunt will be conducted at the Sacramento Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 13; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 14. Winners will be announced at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

## Internships Offer Great Numismatic Experience

The ANA has launched a new intern program that will allow two numismatic enthusiasts an opportunity to work approximately 10 weeks this

summer at Association headquarters on the campus of The Colorado College in Colorado Springs. During the program, which begins June 5, 1999, interns will have an opportunity to be involved in many programs and activities at the ANA. These may include assisting with collection management in the Library and Museum; organizing archival material; conducting in-depth research; and/or lending a hand in the area of public information service.

ANA Education Director Gail Baker Kraljevic, who is coordinating the new program, says, "We are looking for candidates who will apply their background, interest and knowledge to the wholehearted pursuit of numismatics. The interns will

receive a scholarship for the ANA Summer Seminar in July and, as time allows, will assist instructors with class logistics; attend the ANA World's Fair of Money® in Chicago in August; and stay on The Colorado College campus, where they will be part of the local community."

The ANA will provide meals, lodging, a \$200 weekly stipend (or equivalent compensation package) and round-trip travel allowance. The aforementioned scholarship enables successful candidates to enroll in the course of their choice (depending on availability) at the week-long Summer Seminar, July 10-16.

Interns selected for the ANA program are expected to reflect the high standards of the ANA. Candidates

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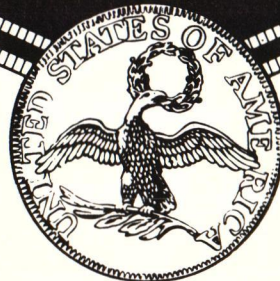
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# Membership News

must be between the ages of 18 and 25; college undergraduates, graduate-school students or recent high-school graduates; and capable of living on their own. They should have a suitable academic background (social sciences, humanities, etc.), related experience, and a demonstrated knowledge and interest in numismatics. All candidates must meet employee security requirements, and should be bondable and capable of precise, detail-oriented work. Computer, foreign-language and numismatic skills are desirable.

Candidates must complete an application form; write a 100- to 200-word essay on their numismatic experience and why this internship program will benefit them; and de-

scribe what specific projects they would like to pursue as part of the internship. Applications must be received at ANA headquarters no later than April 15, 1999. Individuals selected to participate in the ANA's 1999 Intern Program will be notified by May 1.

To request an application or more information, contact the ANA Education Department.

## Seminar Explores Colorado Treasures

The ANA's 31st Annual Summer Seminar, scheduled for July 10-16, 1999, in Colorado Springs, offers 30 different numismatic courses, including six new offerings. Two in

particular will interest fans of Western Americana: "Numismatic Treasures of Colorado," conducted by Ed Rochette and Don Kagin; and "Exploring Colorado's Ghost Towns," led by Mark Hotz.

"Numismatic Treasures" features field trips to Denver, Cripple Creek, Victor and St. Elmo, with lunch breaks at specially selected restaurants with numismatic significance. Rochette and Kagin, both great storytellers, will delight the class with non-stop tales of the state's early Gold Rush days. Students will visit the historic Lesher House and a modern gold-mining operation in Victor; the Cripple Creek District Museum; the Colorado Historical Society in Denver; and the United

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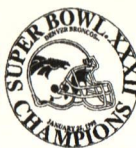
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# Membership News

States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, where they will view the Gimbel Collection of aeronautical medals. Participants will return to Colorado Springs at the end of each day so they won't miss out on special evening activities.

Students in Hotz' "Ghost Towns" class will discover the beauty and majesty of the Rocky Mountains while searching out old gold camps and coal towns. Participants will visit the restored towns of Cripple Creek and Central City, and the more sanguine Victor, Goldfield and Altman. Hotz will lead the class across the Great Basin to explore ghost towns tucked away in the Collegiate Peaks, with a stop at a natural hot spring. Students will spend much of their time on the road, with the possibility of one overnight trip. Several destinations are characterized by rough terrain and very high elevation; those with physical limitations should not enroll.

Following the conclusion of formal classes on Thursday, students can learn even more about Colorado's numismatic legacy on an exclusive tour of the Denver Mint on Friday, July 16. The field trip, available for an additional fee, also will explore other sites of interest in the Mile High City. Those wishing to depart for home via Denver International Airport can hop a complimentary ANA shuttle later in the day.

Enrollment for "Numismatic Treasures" and "Ghost Towns" is limited to 10 students each, so sign up early to avoid disappointment. Students will receive information about the Denver tour with their registration confirmation. Contact the ANA Education Department for further details.



Two new Summer Seminar courses explore Colorado's numismatic past and colorful "ghost towns."



## Award Nominations Accepted for ANA Representative Program

Nominations are being solicited through April 15 for outstanding club representatives, district delegates and regional coordinators in the American Numismatic Association's Representative Program. Award recipients will be recognized at the 108th Anniversary Convention in Chicago, August 11-15.

Nominees will be judged on their contributions to the program and the hobby, including active promotion of ANA membership at local shows and ANA conventions; recruiting and retaining member clubs; and assisting clubs in building membership and programs. Regional coordinators will be evaluated on their effectiveness, as well as that of the district delegates and club representatives working under their guidance.

Nominations must include the

nominee's background and specific contributions to the Representative Program. For more information, contact the Membership Department.

## Swiatek Commends Eight at FUN Show

ANA President Anthony Swiatek presented Presidential Awards at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) convention in early January. Honored for the time and effort they have given to help FUN and the hobby were volunteers Kenneth Emblor of Lake Worth, for his contributions to YN programs; Edmund Abbott of Clearwater; John R. Grellman of Lake Mary; Carrie I. and James M. Best of Lakelawn; Mark Lighterman of Miami; and Thomas Davison IV of Coral Gables. Swiatek also recognized Philip N. Diehl, director of the United States Mint, for his enthusiastic support of numismatics and the collecting hobby.





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# Membership News

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Calendar listings are published as a service to member clubs of the American Numismatic Association. Entries must be received at least eight weeks prior to the cover date of the magazine and preferably as much as four months in advance so announcements can appear in several consecutive issues. Type or print information and send to Calendar of Events, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279 or fax 719/634-4085. Receipt of show notices is acknowledged by post card; if you do not receive confirmation of your listing, contact the Publications Department.*

### EAST

#### MARCH

**6-7 HAGERSTOWN, MD.** Best Western, Venice Ballroom, Dual HiWay, E. of town on U.S. Hwy. 40. Interstate Coin Club Coin Show. Show Chairman Robt. K. Brechbiel, P.O. Box 1901, Hagerstown, MD 21742, telephone 301/739-5414.

**7 ALBANY, NY.** Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

**7 WEST CHESTER, PA.** Holiday Inn, 943 S. High St. (just S. of town). 34th Annual Coin Show sponsored by the West Chester Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Mark Smithson, c/o WCCC, P.O. Box 818, West Chester, PA 19381-0818, telephone 610/323-5134.

**7 WILLIMANTIC, CT.** Elks Lodge, Pleasant St. (Rt. 32). 26th Annual Coin & Paper Money Show sponsored by the Mansfield Numismatic Society. Bourse

## ANA EVENTS

**March 12-14 SACRAMENTO, CA.** Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 "J" St. ANA National Money Show. Contact Convention Department.

**April 18-24 National Coin Week.** Theme: "Treasures in Change." Contact Education Department.

**July 10-16 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO.** The Colorado College. 31st Annual ANA Summer Seminar. Contact Education Department.

**August 11-15 CHICAGO, IL.** Rosemont Convention Center, 9301 W. Bryn Mawr. ANA 108th Anniversary Convention. Contact Convention Department.

**March 3-5, 2000 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL.** Greater Ft. Lauderdale /Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd. ANA National Money Show. Contact Convention Department.

## NATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

**March 6-7 BILOXI, MS.** President Casino Broadwater Resort, 2100 W. Beach Blvd. 38th Annual Mississippi Numismatic Association State Convention & Coin Show. Show Chairman Blake B. Rouleau, P.O. Box 303, Collinsville, MS 39325, telephone 601/626-8805, or Louis Villalpando, 142 Kenmore Ave., Biloxi, MS 39531, telephone 288/388-0881.

**March 26-28 DEARBORN, MI.** Hyatt Regency Hotel. Michigan State Numismatic Society 43rd Annual Spring Convention. MSNS Spring Convention, P.O. Box 16231, Lansing, MI 48901, or Business Manager Tom Klunzinger, telephone 517/349-0799, fax 517/349-6283.

**March 26-28 EAST RIDGE, TN.** Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1. 34th Annual Tennessee State Numismatic Society Convention. Bourse Chairman Terry Hess, P.O. Box 831, Clemmons, NC 27012-0831.

**April 3 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.** Antiquer's Mall (Rivanna Room), 2335 Seminole Tr. (off Rt. 29N.). Spring Coin Show conducted by the Virginia Numismatic Association in conjunction with the Blue Ridge & Monticello Coin Clubs. Show Chairman Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932, telephone 804/823-8096.

**April 17-18 OMAHA, NE.** Holiday Inn Convention Center, I-80 & 72nd St. Nebraska Numismatic Association 44th Convention hosted by the Omaha Coin Club. Steven C. Drake, P.O. Box 1003, Omaha, NE 68101-1003, telephone 402/571-5421.

**May 7-9 MONROEVILLE, PA.** Pittsburgh ExpoMart, Bus. Rt. 22 (Exit 6, Pa. Tpk.). Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) 4th Annual Spring Convention. John Paul Sarosi, 106 Market St., Johnstown, PA 15901, telephone 814/535-5766, fax 814/535-2978, E-mail [www.money.org/club\\_pan.html](http://www.money.org/club_pan.html).

Chairman C. John Ferreri, P.O. Box 33, Storrs, CT 06268, telephone 860/456-2442.

**13-14 INDIANA, PA.** Best Western University Inn, 1545 Wayne Ave., Rt. 119 S. 41st Annual Spring Coin Show

held by the Indiana Coin Club. Bourse Chairman John F. Busovicki, 72 Walcott St., Clymer, PA 15728-1230, telephone 724/254-2471.

**13-14 YORK, PA.** Springetts Fire



# Membership News

Hall, 3013 E. Market St. 38th Annual York Coin Show conducted by the York Coin Club. Jane Knaub, 150 Throne Ave., York, PA 17402, telephone 717/757-4070.

20 MASSAPEQUA, NY. Presbyterian Community Hall, 150 Pittsburgh Ave. (off Broadway). Annual Coin Show & Sale sponsored by the Massapequa Coin Club. MCC, P.O. Box 56, Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

21 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction conducted by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Graphics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

21 MIDDLETOWN, CT. American Legion Hall, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Rt. 66. Coin Show sponsored by the Middlesex County Numismatic Society. Bourse Chairman David Passamano, Mt. Parnassus Rd., East Haddam, CT 06423, telephone 860/873-2571.

21 PORTLAND, ME. Holiday Inn West, Exit 8, Maine Tpk. (Riverside St.). Coin Show held by the Gorham Coin Club. Stephen A. Crain, 89 Varney Mill Rd., Windham, ME 04062, telephone 207/892-7113 (evenings).

21 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Coin Show conducted by the Onondaga Numismatic Association. Bourse Chairman Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Circle W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

28 FOSTORIA, OH. St. Wendelin High School Gym, 533 N. Countyline St. Annual Spring Coin Show held by the Fostoria Coin Club. FCC, 432 Glenview Dr., Fostoria, OH 44830-1622.

## APRIL

11 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

16-18 STRONGSVILLE, OH. Michaud's, 16808 Pearl Rd. 38th Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Warrensville Heights Coin Club. Bill Krizsan, P.O. Box 391441, Solon, OH 44139, telephone 440/248-4722.

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**16-18 WHITE PLAINS, NY.** Westchester County Center. Westchester Coin, Stamp & Paper Show co-sponsored by the Cross States Numismatic Association, Putnam Coin Club & White Plains Coin Club. Mark Simon, c/o CSNA, Box 8308, New Fairfield, CT 06812, telephone 914/423-7957.

**18 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY.** F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction sponsored by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Grafics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

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**25 GLENS FALLS (QUEENSBURY), NY.** Queensbury VFW Post 6196, Richardson St. & Luzerne Rd. Coopers Cave Coin Club 22nd Spring Coin & Stamp Show. Gerald Snow, 1350 Baldwin Corners Rd., Ft. Ann, NY 12827, telephone 518/639-8949.

## MAY

**2 ALBANY, NY.** Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

**15-16 CHAMBERSBURG, PA.** Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), Exit 5 (Wayne Ave.), I-81. Annual Coin Show conducted by The Friendly Coin Club of Chambersburg. FCCC, P.O. Box 158, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

**16 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY.** F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction conducted by the Erie County Coin &

Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Grafics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

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## SOUTH

### MARCH

**13-14 LUBBOCK, TX.** Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 6th St. South Plains Coin Club 39th Annual Coin & Sports Card Show. SPCC, P.O. Box 6326, Lubbock, TX 79493; or telephone Sharron Rice, 806/792-0428.

**21 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL.** Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. @ Oakland Park Blvd. Coin Show conducted by the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Harvey Bastacky, 1181 S.W. 108 Terr., Davie, FL 33324, telephone 954/424-8776.

**27 CAMDEN, SC.** Kershaw County Recreation Dept. (Teen Canteen). Camden Coin Club Semi-Annual Coin & Baseball Card Show. Bourse Chairman LoRan Ross, 2504 Haile St. Ext., Camden, SC 29020.

**27 SARASOTA, FL.** Elks Lodge #1519, 2635 Fruitville Rd. (4 mi. W. of Exit 39, I-75). Sarasota Coin Club 3rd Semi-Annual Coin Show. SCC, c/o David Klein, 640 S. Washington Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236, telephone 941/366-2191; or James Martino, 941/922-7205.

### APRIL

**2-3 ARLINGTON, TX.** La Quinta Inn-Conference Center, 825 N. Watson

Rd. (I-30 @ State Hwy. 360). Coin Show sponsored by the Dallas Coin Club. Mike Grant, P.O. Box 171719, Arlington, TX 76003-1719, telephone 817/496-2388.

**10 MCKINNEY, TX.** Holiday Inn, 1300 N. Central Expwy. (Hwy. 75 N., Exit 40B). Semi-Annual Coin Show held by the Collin County Coin Club. Gary Rollins, P.O. Box 744, McKinney, TX 75070-0744, telephone 972/727-1566.

**16-18 HOUSTON, TX.** Houston Astrodome, 8400 Kirby Dr. @ Loop 610. Bayou City Coin Show co-sponsored by the Bellaire, Pasadena & Greater Houston Coin Clubs. Bill Hooven, 6420 Richmond Ave., Suite 500, Houston, TX 77057, telephone 713/532-6233.

**18 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL.** Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. @ Oakland Park Blvd. Coin Show conducted by the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Harvey Bastacky, 1181 S.W. 108 Terr., Davie, FL 33324, telephone 954/424-8776.

**25 CONYERS, GA.** American Legion Hall, Hwy. 138, 1/2 mi. N. of I-20. Second Annual Coin Show held by the Rockdale Coin Club. Martin Gellert, P.O. Box 1255, Conyers, GA 30012, telephone 770/483-2406, fax 770/483-2599, E-mail martygellert@earthlink.net.

## MAY

**16 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL.** Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. @ Oakland Park Blvd. Coin Show conducted by the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Harvey Bastacky, 1181 S.W. 108 Terr., Davie, FL 33324, telephone 954/424-8776.

**29-30 MOREHEAD CITY, NC.** Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell St. Coin, Stamp & Collectible Show held by the Carteret Numismatic Society.



# Membership News

David Porter, P.O. Box 971, Swansboro, NC 28584, telephone 910/326-3233.

## CENTRAL

### MARCH

**14 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA.** 4 Points Hotel, 33rd Ave. S.W. (I-380, Exit 33rd Ave.). Cedar Rapids Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Brian E. Fanton, P.O. Box 81, Hiawatha, IA 52233-0081.

**14 LINCOLN, NE.** Park Center Rec., 2608 Park Blvd. Coin Show held by the Lincoln Coin Club. John Veach, P.O. Box 5575, Lincoln, NE 68505.

**20 SHEBOYGAN, WI.** Sheboygan Armory, 516 Broughton Dr. Coin & Sports Card Show conducted by the She-

boygan Coin Club. Ed Rautmann, P.O. Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0907.

**21 EVANSVILLE, IN.** C.K. Newsome Community Center, 100 E. Walnut St. Coin Show sponsored by the Evansville Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Dennis Longest, P.O. Box 207, Evansville, IN 47702, telephone 812/464-1386.

**21 MERRILLVILLE, IN.** Serbian-American Hall, 8700 Taft St. Tri-Cities Coin Show held by the Valparaiso Coin Club. Don Wilickas, 1210 Wood Hollow Ct., Schererville, IN 46375, telephone 219/322-1401.

**21 OMAHA, NE.** Holiday Inn, 72nd St. & I-80. SAC-Midwest Coin Club Show. Mike Dillemath, c/o SMCC, 15671 Marcy St., Omaha, NE 68118, telephone 402/293-9596.

**28 MARION, IN.** Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, State Hwy. 18 E. Marion Coin Club 41st Annual Show. W. Ray Lockwood, P.O. Box 93, Marion, IN 46952-0093, telephone 765/664-6520.

**28 SPRINGFIELD, IL.** Northfield Center I, 3280 Northfield Dr. (next to Juke Box Junction @ Dirksen Pkwy.). Annual Spring Coin Show sponsored by the Central Illinois Numismatic Association. Chairman Steve Butler, 1712 S. First St., Springfield, IL 62704, telephone 217/528-7634.

### APRIL

**3 KALAMAZOO, MI.** County Center Bldg., Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St. Kalamazoo Numismatic Club Spring Coin Show. Russ Barr, P.O. Box 462, Portage, MI 49081.

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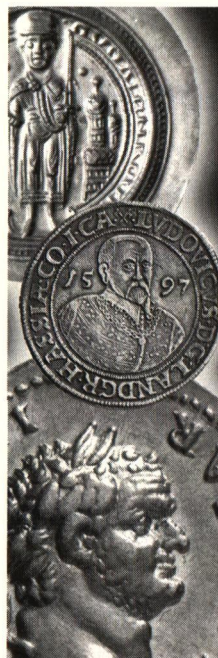
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# Membership News

**11 ROYAL OAK, MI.** Royal Oak Senior Community Center, 3500 Marias Ave. (Crooks Rd. to 13 Mile Rd., 2 blocks E. on 13 Mile Rd.). Spring Coin Show conducted by the Royal Oak Coin Club. Joseph Irrer, P.O. Box 445, Royal Oak, MI 48068, telephone 248/442-0039.

**24 PEKIN, IL.** Miller Center, 551 S. 14th St. (1/2 block N. of Pekin Memorial Hospital, across from Pekin Park Lagoon). Tazewell Numismatic Society 39th Anniversary Coin Show. Dale O. Freidinger, c/o TNS, P.O. Box 696, Pekin, IL 61555-0696.

**25 MUNDELEIN, IL.** Holiday Inn, Hwys. 83 & 45. 34th Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Mundelein Coin Club. Chairman Dale Grimm, P.O. Box 725, Mundelein, IL 60060-0725, telephone 847/223-3154.

## WEST

### MARCH

**6-7 EUREKA, CA.** Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, 3750 Harris St. 33rd Annual Coin Show conducted by the Eureka Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Harry Dixon, P.O. Box 505, Eureka, CA 95501, telephone 707/442-1106.

**13-14 TACOMA, WA.** LaQuinta Inn, Portland Ave. & I-25. Semi-Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Tacoma-Lakewood Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Paul Longcrier, P.O. Box 7626, Olympia, WA 98507.

**14 SCOTTSDALE, AZ.** Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show conducted by the Camelback Collectibles

Club. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, telephone 602/990-1007.

**27-28 SANTA ROSA, CA.** Finley Hall, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 12. 50th Anniversary Coin Show held by the Redwood Empire Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Merle Avila, 5850 Commerce Bl., Suite 100, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, telephone 707/585-3711.

## APRIL

**11 SCOTTSDALE, AZ.** Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show conducted by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Show Chairman Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, telephone 602/990-1007.



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# Membership News

25 ARCADIA, CA. Masonic Temple,  
50 W. Duarte Rd. Covina Coin Club  
Coin-O-Rama. Bourse Chairman Don  
Foster, P.O. Box 921, Temple City, CA  
91780, telephone 626/447-9483.

## MAY

16 SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge,  
6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card,  
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Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060, tele-  
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## CLUB NEWS

The **Colorado Springs Coin Club** and **Colorado Springs Numismatic Society** invite collectors to exhibit at their jointly sponsored coin show on July 9-11. Exhibitors must be ANA members (or members of ANA organizations in good standing). Awards will be presented in "adult," "young numismatist" and "best of show" categories. In addition, an award will be presented in any special-interest category that draws at least six exhibits.

Set-up time is between noon Friday, July 9, and noon Saturday, July 10. Exhibitors can take down displays between noon and 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 11. (Those attending

the ANA Summer Seminar may remove their exhibits starting at 10 a.m. on July 11.) Exhibit applications are available from George Mountford, Colorado Springs Coin Show Committee, P.O. Box 10055, Colorado Springs, CO 80932.

The **Vallejo (California) Numismatic Society** (VNS) encourages competitive and non-competitive exhibits at its 27th annual coin and collectibles show scheduled for June 27. The one-day event will include coin and collectible dealers, displays, exhibits, collector meetings, a wooden money issue, drawings and giveaways. For more information or to request exhibit applications, contact VNS publicity and exhibit coordinator Stan Turrini at P.O. Box 4281,



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# Membership News

Vallejo, CA 94590-0428, telephone 707/453-6277 (weekdays only). For bourse applications, contact Bill Bartz at the same address, or telephone 707/435-8751.

The VNS joined the neighboring **Fairfield Coin Club (FCC)** for the groups' 12th annual joint Christmas party at Fairfield's Anheuser-Busch Brewery. The festivities drew 89 attendees; Walter Ostromecki served as master of ceremonies. The FCC honored Sandy Bearden with its highest honor, the Rich Neily Award.

The **San Diego County Inter-Club Numismatic Council's** 42nd Coinarama medal depicts a C-54 aircraft in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift and in remembrance of the Allies' heroic

efforts (and 279,228 flights) to sustain the population of East Berlin. The medal is struck in 1-ounce silver, bronze, oxidized bronze and copper. The four-piece set is available for \$25 (plus \$2.50 shipping and handling) from Dorothy Baber, 611 Oakwood Way, El Cajon, CA 92021, telephone 619/442-2726.

The **Central States Numismatic Society** wants to remind hobbyists that April 7 is the deadline for exhibit applications for its 60th anniversary convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 23-25. All eight exhibit categories will be competing for United States gold Eagles in newly designed wood-grain holders, with awards going to best-of-show and the top three winners in each

exhibit category. The 1999 show will feature two new awards: "Best Exhibit by a New Exhibitor" and "Most Educational Exhibit." All exhibitors will receive a 1999 silver Eagle and banquet ticket just for participating. For more details, contact Ray and Fran Lockwood at 2075 E. Bocock Rd., Marion, IN 46952-8799; telephone 765/664-6520; or E-mail [sunray@comteck.com](mailto:sunray@comteck.com).

The **Bellaire (Texas) Coin Club (BCC)** is pleased to announce its presence on the World Wide Web at [www.ccatech.com/bellairecc](http://www.ccatech.com/bellairecc). The website, designed by David Burke of the **Corpus Christi Coin Club**, uses the on-line "Houston Numismatic Calendar" as a means of keeping collectors in the Greater Hous-

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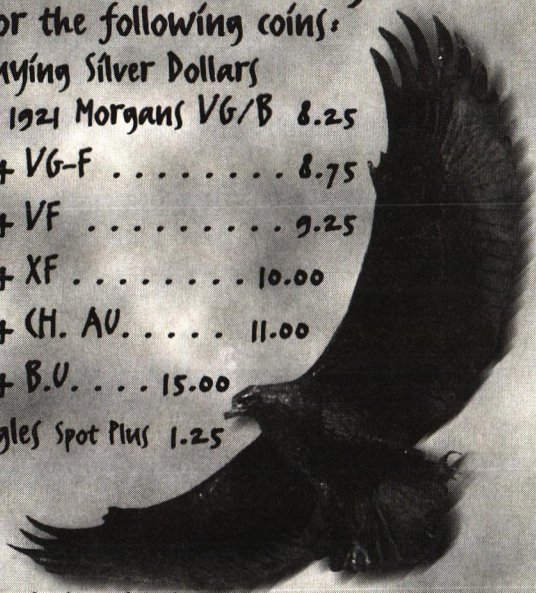
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# Membership News

ton/Gulf Coast area apprised of local club events, educational programs and area shows. The BCC also will post articles relating to the hobby and club news. To submit an article or convey comments, contact club president Jim Bevill at JBevill@ibm.net, or write to BCC, P.O. Box 303, Bellaire, TX 77401.

New officers for the **Fort Worth Coin Club** include Lance Ward Sr., president; Frank Provasek, vice president; Cleo Moss, secretary; and H.S. (Mac) McGilvray, treasurer. The club, which was organized by B. Max Mehl and Amon Carter Jr. in 1954, is beginning its 45th year. For more information, telephone 817/571-7062 or visit [www.netcom.com/~ropertex/fwcc.html](http://www.netcom.com/~ropertex/fwcc.html).

New Jersey's **Trenton Numismatic Club** (TNC) has cause for celebration. The organization is marking its 50th anniversary and recently installed its executive board for 1999. New officers include Dave Ronco, president; Ned Saaz, vice president; Larry Conti, secretary; and Ron Kowalik, treasurer. Both George Bergner and Bob Briel will continue to serve as sergeants-at-arms. The TNC can be reached at P.O. Box 8122, Trenton, NJ 08650.

The **Milwaukee Numismatic Society** has announced its new officers for 1999. Serving are Tom Casper, president; Gary Bieringer, vice president; Annette Tramte, secretary; Lee Hartz, treasurer; and Don Handschke, sergeant-at-arms.

## OBITUARIES

### DON KING—ANA 71136

Harold Eugene "Don" King of Kaneohe, Hawaii, died on December 20. He was 62.

Born in Edwardsville, Illinois, he served in the United States Marine Corps. In 1972 he retired from the service and focused on the field of numismatics, becoming owner and operator of Windward Coins in Kailua, Hawaii, as well as an active member of the ANA.

King is survived by his wife, Shirley; son, Michael; daughters, Denise Gaeta, Diane Bingo and Sandra Shim; ten grandchildren; one



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# Membership News

great-grandchild; and sisters, Mildred Temple and Wanda Pitra.

## **PAT HAMILTON—ANA 41899**

Patricia A. (Pat) Hamilton of Decatur, Georgia, succumbed to lung cancer on September 3. She was 57 years old.

Hamilton had been a member of the ANA for 37 years. During her numismatic career, she and her husband, Thomas, served as co-presidents of the DeKalb and Atlanta Coin Clubs, and she was a frequent ANA exhibitor in the '70s. She was vice president of Thomas B. Hamilton Company, a firm specializing in German numismatics and, in recent years, started her own antique business specializing in silver flatware.

Hamilton is survived by her husband, who is a life member of the ANA and a retired member of the Professional Numismatists Guild; and two daughters, Beverly and Valerie. The family can be contacted at P.O. Box 477, Decatur, GA 30031.

- R 90289 **Philip DeVicci**, Moorestown, NJ (joined 1-76)
- R 151611 **M.R. Hodge**, Greenwood, SC (joined 9-90)
- LM 2743 **Benjamin H. Kierman**, Ocean-side, NY (joined 1-81)
- R 20247 **Ben Markowitz**, Livonia, MI (joined 1-52)
- R 158458 **M.L. McDonald**, Winchester, VA (joined 8-92)
- R 58275 **John B. Pickens**, Phoenix, AZ (joined 1-67)
- LM 3094 **John S. Schoentag**, St. Joseph, MO (joined 4-60)

- LM 3713 **Michael Tresemer**, Rogue River, OR (joined 5-85)
- R 171065 **F. Wright**, Renton, WA (joined 5-96)

## **NOTICE**

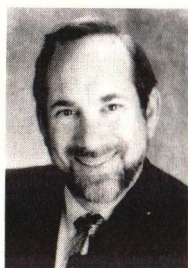
*The fund-raising auction originally scheduled for the ANA's National Money Show in Sacramento, March 12-14, has been rescheduled for the 1999 World's Fair of Money® in Chicago, August 11-15. Watch for further details!*



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## The Little Orphan Annie

*continued from page 264*

*United States Coins*, stated that "above and beyond its low mintage, the rarity of this date [1844] has been greatly exaggerated. It is actually far commoner in used conditions than the 1846, but very rare in Unc." Kamal Ahwash and Brian Greer, authors of separate studies on the Seated Liberty dime series, both felt the 1846 dime was the more uncommon of the two, though neither explored in depth the lore of the 1844 coin.

### In the Footsteps of Samuel Brown

THE BIGGEST MYSTERY of the Orphan Annie seems not to be how or when the coin was named, but rather why Ross chose to promote this particular coin. Breen's *Encyclopedia* states that Ross hoarded the coin. No evidence corroborates this, but an ad placed by Ross in the August 1931 issue of *Hobbies* certainly is curious: "Will buy your 1844 Dimes, Frank C. Ross, 15 East 62nd Street, Kansas City, Mo." (Similar ads also appeared in the March and September 1931 issues.)

In the November 1931 issue, the editor published a letter from Ross: "To date I have not received a single answer to my Ad in August HOBBIES," he wrote. "This is just what I predicted and wished, so am well satisfied." Whether Ross intended this letter for publication, we can only speculate. That he went on to make contributions to *Hobbies* for more than 20 years suggests he was not terribly offended by the letter's appearance.

Another bit of probable chicanery can be found in the September 1935 edition of *The Numismatist*. "Leah Richmond" of Elkhart, Indiana, wrote to the editor asking that the ANA journal give a history of "this

interesting coin," the 1844 dime. In all likelihood, the letter was penned by Frank C. Ross, whose wife's maiden name was Leah Richmond. That Brimelow's extensive article on the 1844 dime appeared in the very next issue of *The Numismatist* seems more than coincidental. And as Brimelow lived in Elkhart at the time, we can rightfully guess that Ross and Brimelow had some sort of conspiratorial relationship.

Ross clearly had an agenda (one is reminded of Samuel Brown and his promotion of the 1913 Liberty Head nickel), but was he motivated by profit? Skimming through 25 years of Frank Ross' ramblings in *Hobbies*, it seems more plausible that he simply was a romantic at heart who just wanted to believe in something cute and wasn't about to let any facts get in his way. He commented in the April 1931 issue: "Should you happen to have one of these little orphans in your collection, you should treat the waif with great consideration, for the little stray is one of the anomalies of the coinage world." And, for more than 20 years, he promoted the scarcity of the coin through fanciful storytelling, not by actual buying, selling or pricing the coin itself.

In February 1951, almost certainly referring to the 1844 dime, Ross wrote, "A few well intentioned but misguided numismatists, having nothing better to do, are at work trying to debunk the fairy tales of the numismatic children, trying to tuck them away without their bedtime stories. A waste of time it would be as hard to disprove Mother Goose rhymes as to question the authenticity of Mother Money's legends. What if there are several conflicting legends about one coin. Andrew Jackson said, 'It is a mighty

ignorant man who cannot spell a word in more than one way'. And it is a mighty unimaginable person that cannot believe two versions of the same legend."

But, the damage was already done, and even though most collectors have forgotten about Frank Ross, the 1844 dime has a reputation that will not soon be outlived, dubious as it is. It is a product of a period in numismatics when "legends" were not immediately dispelled by auction results or population reports. It would be impossible to create another "Little Orphan Annie" today—perhaps there is something a little bit sad about that.

### The Legend Lives On

THE ORPHAN ANNIE dime again is subject to pricing pressure. Although current Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) population figures for the 1844 and 1846 dimes (36 and 17, respectively) are roughly proportional to their original mintage (72,500 and 31,300), this is definitely one case in which rarity is not the only factor in valuation. A survey of Seated Liberty dimes published in the *Gobrecht Journal* in 1990 also confirmed that the 1846 is rarer than the 1844. Prices rose with the coin's promotion in the 1930s, and subsequently waned until several years ago as interest in the coin was piqued by collectors like Terry Brand. The dictum that an item is worth "whatever someone is willing to pay for it" applies particularly well to the 1844 dime.

### Where Are They Now?

FEW SPECIMENS OF the Little Orphan Annie dime have surfaced in recent years. One was offered by RARCOA in Session Two (Lot 605) of Auction '90. Part One of the



Louis E. Eliasberg sale, conducted by Bowers and Merena in 1996, featured a Proof-65 specimen (Lot 1130); and the first portion of the John Jay Pittman Collection, auctioned by David Akers Numismatics in October 1997, contained an 1844 proof set (which included a dime). Pieces occasionally appear in fixed price lists in a wide range of values.

The major players in the Little Orphan Annie mystery are no longer with us. Harry Bosley died in 1986 at the age of 80 in Belton, Missouri. A stepson, Frank Fuchs of Outlook, Kansas, had little knowledge of Bosley's numismatic endeavors, except that he had been president of the now-defunct Heart of America Coin Club in Kansas City.

William Brimelow died in Elkhart, Indiana, in 1954 at the age of

64. He left a brother, George, in Illinois, in addition to his mother and another five siblings, all in England. However, no living relatives have been located. A mail survey of all Brimelows in the United States (about 20 families) produced none, and an international E-mail search of those with the Brimelow name failed.

Frank C. Ross passed away in 1955 at the age of 82. The Missouri archives contain no will. His wife, Leah Richmond Ross, died in 1957. She prepared a will in 1956; her estate consisted of about \$30,000 in cash (equal to almost \$180,000 today) and \$150 in "household goods and personal effects." No mention is made of any numismatic material. Neither Frank nor Leah are listed as "sellers" in the American Numismatic Society's auction consignor in-

dex, suggesting that any significant numismatic transactions on their part were conducted privately, if at all.

Frank and Leah Ross had one daughter, Mary; and two sons, David and Frank Jr. David, an electrician by trade, died in San Francisco in 1978. He left no family. His estate, which consisted of cash only, went unclaimed by his siblings and, following a search for heirs, was settled in 1996 by the California courts. Frank Jr., the youngest child, died without family in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1982. (He was a sergeant in the Army during World War II and apparently never came back to the States afterward.) His estate passed to Mary, the oldest, based on a will he wrote in 1944 at a military base in Virginia. Mary was a librarian who died in 1994 in Florida. Like her

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Bowers, Q. David. *Adventures with Rare Coins*. Los Angeles: Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, 1979, pp. 29-32.

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brothers, she left no children. James H. Peck, a representative for Mary's estate, said no records of her father's involvement in numismatics were among her effects at the time of her death.

Despite the seeming absence of records or other documentation, the answers still might be found among miscellaneous papers or letters. The author invites correspondence with anyone who may have known these individuals; readers can contact him at 16 North Fiore Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 or via E-mail at leonard\_augsburger@msn.com.

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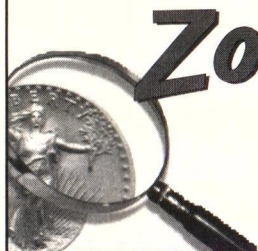
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*A member of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, Leonard Augsburgers enjoys collecting Seated Liberty coins by date. For 11 years, he has been employed by Motorola as an engineer in the cellular communications field. He is a published composer and works part-time as a musician.*

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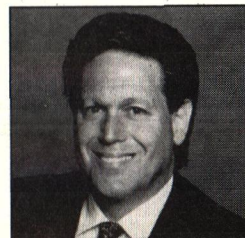
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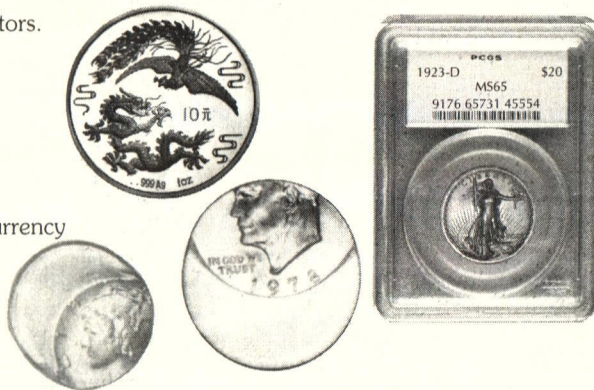
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# Grading Capped Bust Half Dimes

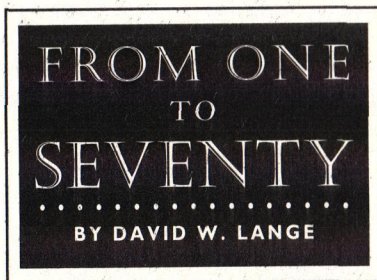
THE HALF DIME was not a very popular denomination during the early years of the United States Mint. Its production was limited and erratic, since the depositors of silver bullion at the Mint typically requested larger denominations. (In circulation, the *medio*, or Spanish  $\frac{1}{2}$ -real piece, usually took the place of the half dime. Though it carried a legal-tender value of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  real was sometimes discounted to 5 cents if heavily worn.)

The coining of half dimes was suspended after 1805. When minting eventually resumed in 1829, this denomination featured William Kneass' updated interpretation of the Capped Bust and Heraldic Eagle originally designed by John Reich in 1807. Though still struck manually, the new half dime was coined within a close collar, which provided a uniform diameter and distinct, raised rim. This series continued until 1837, when it was replaced mid-year by the Seated Liberty type.

The grading of Capped Bust half dimes is relatively simple for circulated pieces. In the higher circulated grades, weakness of strike may be confused with wear, so it is good to know where such weakness typically appears. This information can be found in the book *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins*, which provides the following cautionary note: "Coins of this design are sometimes weakly struck, particularly in the drapery, clasp, hair, on the motto above the eagle, and wings close to the shield."

In addition, certain varieties in this series exhibit die breaks that have affected their wear patterns; the

broken portion of the die wore rapidly, while simultaneously acting as a shield against wear for the por-



tions immediately adjacent to the break. This can be quite confusing to a person viewing such a coin for the first time, but it is a natural phenomenon of the minting process. Aside from these considerations, the text and photographs found within the ANA grading book provide an accurate guide to worn examples of this coin type.

Like most of our early coins, the Capped Bust half dime is relatively scarce in truly mint-state condition. Years ago, any coin that appeared lustrous was typically cataloged as "uncirculated," though most exhibited some slight friction or loss of luster on their high points. The advancement of coin values, combined with the growing use of third-party grading services, has largely unmasked such would-be mint-state coins. Within the mint-state grades, however, there is a wide variance in quality. Surprisingly, a fair number of gem pieces are known.

As of January 1999, Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) had certified 278 examples of various dates as MS-65, 148 pieces as MS-66 and 30 as MS-67. Only one coin has been graded MS-68. The dates that

seem most available in the top grades are 1831 and 1832, while 1837 remains the most elusive in both overall numbers certified and prevalence of high-grade examples.

Some variables that can cause a mint-state Capped Bust half dime to be downgraded from the gem classification (MS-65 and higher) include numerous or particularly noticeable marks, dull luster, poor strike and unattractive toning. Other flaws also can preclude a coin from being certified by a major grading service.

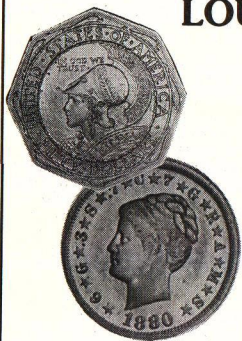
Whether a coin is mint state or circulated, signs of damage, surface alteration or harsh cleaning usually result in the piece's return with no grade or encapsulation. Grading services typically offer a brief explanation for the rejection. Some services still certify such coins, giving a diminished grade along with a qualifier, such as "cleaned" or "damaged" listed on the label.

Proofs exist for several dates in the Capped Bust half dime series. These are very rare, and their grading is beyond the scope of this column. Collectors will find pleasure enough in pursuing this charming coin by type, date and, for the truly adventurous, die variety.



The Capped Bust half dime was the first type coined within a close collar.





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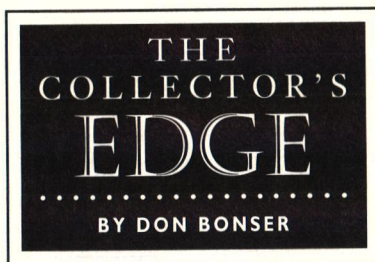


# Safes Not Necessarily "Safe"

**B** EING A COIN dealer, I see many specimens in formal collections—and in loose accumulations—that have been stored away for years. While such items usually are protected from burglary in home safes and bank safe-deposit boxes, they often lie largely forgotten for years, with little or nothing done to protect them from the environment. This scenario can have tragic results.

In Florida (where I live), it is not unusual to see sets of Lincoln cents, carefully placed in cardboard albums years ago, now displaying gorgeous obverses but discolored—even corroded and pitted—reverses. Many

nice coins have been ruined in this way through neglect and lack of long-range planning.

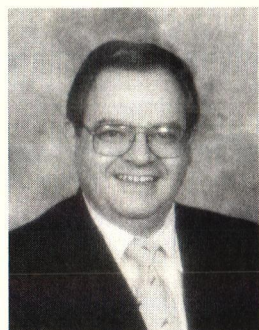


**Q.** My question concerns safes and what to do about humidity. I just purchased a safe for coin storage. The owner's manual warns that the

environment can present humidity problems. What are your recommendations? I have seen articles in *The Numismatist* about "bagging" with archival materials or using desiccants. I would appreciate an update on current procedures.

—R.C., via Internet

**A.** The most important variable is the location of your safe. If it's in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment, your coins probably are fine as they are—provided they are housed in appropriate holders. Unfortunately, because of dimensions and weight, many safes cannot conveniently be placed in the



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most environmentally protected location. Thus, sensible safety precautions must be taken to promote coin preservation.

Consider a "worst case" scenario: a safe is located in a high-humidity area where its interior temperature can vary substantially from day to night. This ultimately would cause condensation inside the safe, resulting in damage to paper and delicate metal surfaces of other stored items.

The best way to avoid problems is to position your safe where such extremes in temperature and humidity can be controlled or avoided. In all cases, I recommend placing a desiccant, such as silica gel, inside the safe. You will need to replace it at regular intervals, and obviously more frequently if the safe is subject to extreme conditions.

**Q.** I store my coins in a fairly large safe. Some pieces are slabbed, and some are raw. However, all my coins are placed in a Tupperware™ container prior to putting them in the safe. Also inside my safe is a large, moisture-absorbing bag that's about the size of my hand. Will my coins be okay stored this way?

—L.M., via Internet

**A.** They should be. The Tupperware™ container probably is an unnecessary step, but it certainly causes no harm and definitely limits the exchange of air around your coins and their holders. The moisture-absorbing bag (silica gel, I assume) is a great idea, but make sure you change the desiccant before it loses effectiveness. The "expiration date" depends on the respective sizes of the

bag and the safe. Obviously a larger bag will last longer, and a smaller storage area will prolong the bag's usefulness. Coins stored inside a safe (or in any other manner) should be monitored on a regular basis to prevent, or at least reduce, damage. If you are losing sleep over this, you might consider contacting ANA Collector Services, which offers secure, environmentally controlled vault storage for a reasonable fee.

Send your questions and comments about numismatic preservation to me in care of *The Numismatist*, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085; or E-mail [anaedi@money.org](mailto:anaedi@money.org). Keep in mind that your comments may be printed in this journal, and that they may be edited for length and clarity. •

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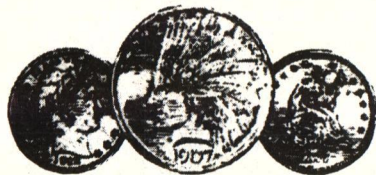
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## Treasure of Xerxes Huge Hoard of Silver Buried circa 450 BC

*And now, as he looked and saw the whole Hellespont covered with the vessels of his fleet and all the shore and every plain about Abydos as full as possible of his men, Xerxes congratulated himself upon his good fortune; but after a little while he wept. His uncle Artabanus, who was with him at the time, asked about this strange expression of contradictory feelings. 'I was thinking,' Xerxes replied, 'and it came into my mind how pitifully short human life is...'*

*Herodotus VII, 45-46*

His moment in history described by the ancient historian Herodotus was perhaps one of the greatest military undertakings in history given the current technology. The accounts relate that the great Persian king Xerxes amassed an army of 1,700,000 men for his invasion of Greece in 480 BC. An entire city was needed to feed the army just two meals, and an entire river ran dry when they drank. And, huge quantities of silver coins were struck to finance the massive military payroll and all the expenses of huge military operations. The Hellespont was the waterway, at least a mile wide, connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and separating Europe from Asia Minor. In order to move his vast army, Xerxes commanded his engineers, mostly Phoenecians and Egyptians, to build a bridge. To do this, 674 ships were tied together in a double row and planks were laid over the decks. The planks were covered with brushwood and dirt to create a road. Xerxes invaded Greece and very nearly succeeded in conquering the civilized world.

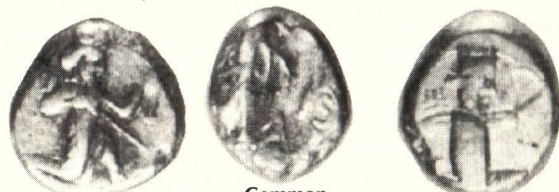
As the Persians moved through northern Greece, they were met at the pass of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartans led by Leonidas fought to the last man, and successfully delayed the Persian advance long enough for the Greek cities to prepare. Although Xerxes captured Athens, the Athenians had fled with their fleet to the nearby island of Salamis where the Persian fleet was defeated by the more experienced Athenian navy. The army of the allied Greek city-states, led by Spartans was able to defeat the Persian army at Plataea in 479 BC and effectively ended Xerxes attempted conquest of Greece.

Xerxes is long dead, but his observations on the brevity of human existence still apply today, even though we average more than twice the usual life span of the ancients. By collecting, studying and handling the coins of the ancients, our human experience can be greatly enhanced. In our hands we have relics of great kings who commanded huge armies to conquer kingdoms now vanished. These treasures of precious metals that are now unearthed from the former paths of these ancient armies are sometimes the only tangible links that we have to those battles. Now you can expand your horizons to the Fifth Century BC with a modest contribution to the Jonathan K. Kern Co.

This hoard of silver was composed of over 100 pounds of struck sigloi. A single siglos averages 5.55 grams of nearly pure silver and depicts the Great King of Persia as an archer in an

action pose. Some interpret his posture as the archaic art expression of running, and others describe him as kneeling. These coins were struck with a heavy sledge hammer on very thick oblong planchets, much like silver bullets, with a handheld upper die depicting the archer. The lower die was probably embedded in wood or stone to secure it. The lower, or reverse die of these coins, was used in the manner of the very first coins ever produced in the world. This lower die was a roughly rectangular raised metal lump, appearing in hundreds of mysterious variations. The raised reverse die creates an incuse impression for the backs of the sigloi. Museum studies now in progress utilize the reverse incused impressions for quick die referencing, since the obverse impression of the Great King is frequently off center. These coins represented a huge explosion in the production of coined money, and were struck rapidly to fill the need for pre-weighed silver authorized by a powerful ruler.

The Great King is shown holding a spear and a bow on the sigloi attributed to the Asia Minor mint of Sardeis, in Lydia and a bow and dagger on the other type which are possibly all from a different mint further south. Frequently they are countermarked with tiny punches by merchants or bankers, possibly to attest to the quality of the silver. We can sell either type in a **nice fine grade for \$37** each, a **nice very fine for \$77** each or a **nice extremely fine for \$277** each. The raised obverse always grades much less than the incused reverse so our nice fine will usually have an extremely fine reverse.



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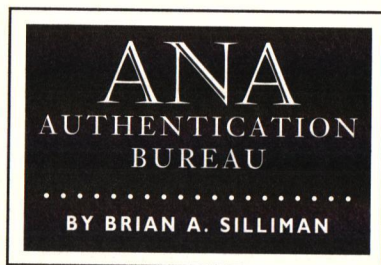
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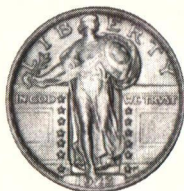




## A Rogues' Gallery

Each month, the ANA Authentication Bureau (ANAAB) evaluates an impressive variety of coins, tokens, medals and even paper money submitted by collectors, dealers and auction houses. This material spans the ages, from ancient times to the present day. Common, well-known issues are easily certified; more obscure items often require extensive research and the use of consultants.

While many items are submitted for authentication, others are sent



**Altered 1923-S quarter:** Despite that the 1923-S Standing Liberty quarter often is replicated through alteration, surprisingly few are submitted for authentication. This particular specimen—a 1923 Philadelphia Mint product—bears an added “snake S” mintmark.



**Genuine penny of Edward the Confessor:** Typical of the medieval pieces submitted for attribution, this coin was struck at Winchester around 1053-56.



**Genuine 1776 Continental dollar:** The Authentication Bureau receives many Continental dollars for evaluation each month. Most are common cast replicas that bear only a passing resemblance to this genuine pewter specimen.

in primarily for identification and attribution (this is especially true of ancient and medieval coins), or for confirmation of varieties or minting errors. With its extensive reference collection, scientific testing procedures and network of consultants, ANAAB can identify, attribute and authenticate most items with certainty.

The ANA Authentication Bureau receives an abundance of the more commonly counterfeited and altered United States coins, such as the 1909-S VDB cent, 1916-D dime and 1893-S dollar, as well as many colonial and commemorative coins. Pictured here is a selection of recent submissions examined by ANAAB—truly an interesting mix! For more information, contact ANA Collector Services, telephone 719/632-2646, fax 719/634-4085 or E-mail [anamus@money.org](mailto:anamus@money.org).



**“Genuine” Montserrat 1 1/2 pence (or “dog”):** Countermarked coins offer an interesting challenge. Although the coin that is countermarked may be counterfeit, if the countermark is authentic, the coin likewise is considered genuine. A case in point is this specimen, which features a genuine, although crude, Montserrat countermark (“M”) on a counterfeit 1789 2 sous of French Guiana. The coin also bears a counterfeit St. Martin countermark. Since the Montserrat countermark appears to be the last stamped, the coin technically is a real Montserrat piece.



**Counterfeit 1909-S Lincoln cent error:** With the popularity of error coins, ANAAB frequently sees pieces such as this, which was struck off-center from false dies made by the transfer process.



**Counterfeit 1757 Russian rouble:** This fake was struck from handcut dies.



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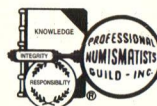
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## Early Dollars

*continued from page 273*

Roger Burdette and Tom DeLorey —began to delve into the enigmatic “small circle.” Initially, it was thought some planchet indentation or defect had been corrected then covered with silver. As additional examples surfaced, more attention was focused on the strange deviation.

Bressett presented a paper on the “curious circular ring or seam” in 1993 at an American Numismatic Society conference. After analyzing numerous examples, he found they had been added before striking. Bressett and Burdette speculated that metal had been added to increase the silver content (fineness).

Mint Director David Rittenhouse had ignored the silver fineness mandated by Congress (.89243) and secretly employed a .900 benchmark, adding an extra 3.5 grains of silver to each dollar coin. Could Rittenhouse have added metal to comply with the mandated standard? This originally was thought to be the answer.

As Bressett continued his study, he concluded it was far more probable that extra metal was added to bring lightweight planchets up to standard, if only as an experiment in 1795. The plug is not found in 1794, the Draped Busts of 1795, or any subsequent year.

Chris Pilliod, a professional metallurgist and numismatic author, subjected the “discovery” 1795 half dollar with the silver plug to advanced electron analysis. After five readings on each side, he found the silver fineness and trace metals to be virtually the same for the plug and the coin. He concluded the “plugging” was undoubtedly done solely as a weight adjustment on light planchets” prior to striking.

Why did the 1795 Flowing Hair dollar with a silver plug go undiscovered for some 200 years? One can only surmise. In early America, coins often were holed for use as jewelry, pocket pieces and coat buttons. Some who noticed the circle may have assumed the coin had been repaired.

Moreover, the outline of the plug is nearly (or completely) invisible on darkly toned specimens. Even professional numismatists who noticed the curious circle dismissed it as “toning.” As late as October 1992, Stack’s auction catalog for the noted Starr collection described a silver plugged 1795 dollar as having “a splash of toning, mostly in the central portions of each side.” *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (the “Red Book”) began listing the “silver center plug” as a separate variety in 1994.

### Adjustment Marks

EXCEPT FOR 1795, when many Flowing Hair dollars received the silver-plug treatment, underweight planchets were added to the bullion inventory, remelted and used again. Overweight planchets were lightened prior to striking by removing metal with a fine file.

Thousands of EDs show the remnants of this hand filing, called “adjustment marks.” Most of these grooves are parallel, but some crisscross. Some are quite prominent, even unsightly, while others are almost invisible, nearly obliterated in the striking process. The majority of surviving 1794 dollars bear adjustment marks on the obverse.

Most collectors, especially those seeking attractive type coins, consider adjustment marks a detriment. Quite the contrary, a few specialists actively seek EDs with dramatic adjustment marks as examples of the

early minting process. In 1996 Bowers and Merena Galleries’ *Rare Coin Review* reported that Ray Merena had found a 1795 Flowing Hair with a silver plug and adjustment marks. Bressett opined that the coin may have been made too light by filing, then brought back to standard by plugging. A second example was found in 1998, and others may exist.

### Edge Lettering

FOR CENTURIES, PEOPLE would file, clip or “shave” small amounts of silver or gold off the edges of coins, gradually accumulating significant amounts of bullion that represented real buying power and value. Repeated edge shaving eventually became apparent, and the coin no longer was accepted for goods, thereby defeating its very purpose.

To prevent clipping, Flowing Hair and Draped Bust dollars bore an incuse inscription HUNDRED CENTS ONE DOLLAR OR UNIT on their edges. This lettering was impressed into the coin by a machine that pulled the planchet between two, parallel steel bars, each bearing half the inscription. The pressure needed to essentially pinch or squeeze the coin between the bars also raised its outside edge, creating an elevated rim.

Edge lettering rarely is examined closely, even by specialists. However, it frequently displays unusual characteristics, including double- or even triple-punched edges; extra lettering, or “overruns”; and reversed lettering, probably created when a coin was ejected then replaced, “backward,” into the machine.

### Bifurcation

IN HIS IMPORTANT treatise on early dollars, Bolender often utilized the term “bifurcation” when



describing letters and numerals that appear to be "split" or "forked" at the base. His writing suggests he believed bifurcation resulted from worn dies or repunching.

Most ED collectors and specialists do not consider bifurcation a diagnostic of varieties, though it still is used to describe the splitting or forking of letters and numerals. In reality, these differences were created by the striking process (which Bolender did not fully understand).

Jules Reiver and other specialists believe it is caused by "strong strikes" that make the bases expand outward, tending to create forks, splits or elongations where the planchet's metal flowed toward the collar. On the other hand, Bowers and others assert these characteristics resulted from weak strikes, when opposing dies did not put sufficient pressure on the planchet. My own observations suggest that when forking or splitting appears, strike detail invariably is stronger. The issue is worthy of further analysis.

### Suction Marks & Die Clashes

ANOTHER TERM USED liberally by Bolender, and which has confused two generations of ED collectors, is "suction marks." Specialists now recognize that these are in fact "clash marks." When opposing dies met with no planchet between, it often created an impression on the die that, if strong enough, left impressions on subsequently struck planchets. Die clash marks are found on numerous early dollar varieties.

### Varieties

MANY COLLECTORS PURCHASE two or three examples of early dollars, usually a Flowing Hair and a Draped Bust (often including examples of the Heraldic Eagle and

"Small Eagle" reverses). Others strive to assemble examples of the 33 Red Book varieties (excluding the 1794, 1804 and proof restrikes).

Some collect by date; others focus on varieties of each date. A smaller number assemble examples of all 120 known die varieties, including the novodel proofs of 1801-03—virtually impossible given that 16 to 20 varieties are believed to have a rarity factor of 7 (4 to 12 examples known) or 8 (1 to 3 known). Those who have exhausted that effort or can't afford the extremely rare varieties sometimes pursue different die states of the same varieties, which number in the hundreds.

Overdates exist for two years, 1799 and 1802 (both listed in the Red Book): three varieties of "1799 over 8" and five varieties of "1802 over 1." Magnification usually is needed to discern the former; most examples of the latter are quite dramatic and visible with the naked eye. Common variety examples are relatively easy to obtain.

REGRETTABLY, EARLY DOLLARS have yet to receive the interest and attention they richly deserve. Happily for those who do understand their true scarcity, diversity and enchantment, they still can be obtained for sums that are reasonable when compared to their scarcity and historical significance in American numismatics.

### Acknowledgments

IN PREPARING THIS article, I interviewed dozens of coin dealers, specialists and numismatic historians, including Russell Logan, Lano Balulescu, Chris Pilliod, Tate Cheshbrough, Bob Merrill, Martin Mansfield, Steve Fischer, Jack Beymer, Rob Retz, Coleman Foster, George

Eggimann, David Feigenbaum and John Feigenbaum (others wish to remain anonymous). I am especially grateful to Jules Reiver, W. David Perkins, Jim Matthews, Martin Oghigian, Mark Borckardt and Jim McGuigan for sharing their insights and experience. The opinions expressed here are mine, not theirs—undoubtedly, each would disagree with one or more. However, as a noted numismatic historian once exclaimed, "Differing opinions help keep the hobby interesting." •

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*John J. Haugh of Wilsonville, Oregon, is a collector and dealer of early dollars. He has written articles and books on a number of topics.*



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## Ponterio's Gift Augments Hispanic Collection

One of the most important sections of the ANA Museum is its collection of Mexican numismatic items, which is wide-ranging and worthy of attention in many respects. Perhaps its greatest strength, due especially to the generosity of the late Kenneth Keith, lies in a series of silver 8-real pieces of Spain and Independent Mexico. However, coins struck at the first mint of the Americas (1536-72) have been represented by only a small group of examples, so a recent donation in this area is significant.

Latin-American specialist and dealer Richard Ponterio recently presented the Museum with two handsome examples of the 4-real pieces struck during this era in the names of the mad Queen Johanna (Juana la Loca) of Castile and her son, the emperor Charles V (Carlos I, or Charles I, of Spain). These two complementary coins, heretofore lacking in the ANA cabinet, are part of the "late" series of the first mint's issues; that is to say, they feature the reverse design of two crowned columns above waves, with PLUS ULTRA ("more beyond") and the numeral "4" in the field. (The Museum's collection still contains no examples of the "early" series of 4 reales, c. 1538-42.)

Although much remains to be determined, a surprising amount of information is known about the first New World mint and its issues. (See Robert I. Nesmith's "Coinage of the First Mint of the Americas at Mexico City, 1536-1572," *Numismatic*

*Notes and Monographs*, No. 131, American Numismatic Society, New York, 1955; ANA Library Cat. No. FB60.N4.) The two coins in the Ponterio donation are examples of the rare issues struck under the supervision of an unidentified assayer (*ensayador*) whose products were signed with an "A," sometime around 1545-50.

The donated specimens represent two variants of the "A" issues, with the "M" mintmark of Mexico displayed alternately to the left and right of the Hapsburg arms on the obverse, and the assayer's mark opposite, to the right or left accordingly. One piece (1998.109.1) most closely matches Nesmith's No. 58; it corresponds in obverse and reverse legends and obverse design, but the Ponterio coin exhibits crown type "A" rather than "C2" above the columns on the reverse. Nesmith noted only one specimen of 58 (and no examples of this variant, of course). The other coin matches Nesmith 62, which also was documented from a single specimen. Out of more than 2,400 late-series pieces of all denominations studied, less than 2 percent were issues of assayer "A."

Significant Mexican coins are welcome additions, as the Museum hopes to create a permanent Hispanic exhibit. With Colorado located on the northern fringe of what was once New Spain, this numismatic connection provides an ideal point of contact with the growing, local Hispanic pop-

ulation that plays such a valuable role in the community.

The new exhibit also would help acknowledge the contributions and favorite themes of Kenneth Keith, whose outstanding bequest enabled the ANA Board of Governors to endow the curatorial chair I now occupy. At the same time, this would allow us to highlight items, such as this latest gift from Richard Ponterio, from our other valued donors. Also I am preparing a new slide program, *Early Mexican Coins in the ANA Museum*, for the Resource Center's audio-visual library, making this recent donation even more beneficial to the ANA membership. •

*Since the American Numismatic Association is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, all donations—both of cash and of material with established "fair market value"—qualify as contributions for income tax purposes.*



Showing only a trace of wear and typical edge irregularities, the Museum's 4-real pieces, both of which measure 33.4mm in diameter, were slightly corroded and cleaned. The specimen at the left (Accession No. 1998.109.1) weighs 12.676g and has an axis of 60° (mint/assayer arrangement M-A; Nesmith 58 var.). The coin at the right (Accession No. 1998.109.2) weighs 12.734g and has an axis of 0° (mint/assayer arrangement A-M; Nesmith 62).



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## A U C T I O N I N S I G H T S

### Sale Features Noblet and Lee Collections

Jean Elsen S.A., an international numismatic firm based in Brussels, Belgium, has announced its 1999 auction schedule. Its 57th public sale, to be held March 6, will feature **ancient coinage; Belgian, French and Polish coins; and a collection of United States double eagles.** Subsequent auctions are planned for June 12, September 18 and December 11. For additional information, visit the firm's web site at [www.elsen.be](http://www.elsen.be); or contact Jean Elsen S.A., Tervurenlaan 65, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium, E-mail [numismatique@elsen.be](mailto:numismatique@elsen.be).

Ira and Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles of Las Vegas will offer **United States coins and paper money**, as well as world issues and ancient coinage, at a sale to be held in Southern California from May 31 to June 1, just prior to the Long Beach Coin and Collectible Expo. To learn more, contact the Goldbergs at 4608 Paradise Rd., Suite 900, Las Vegas, NV 89109-7193; telephone 800/978-2646; fax 702/898-2119; or E-mail [IRACoin@aol.com](mailto:IRACoin@aol.com).

The Rarities Sale, conducted by Auctions by Bowers and Merena on January 5 and 6 in Orlando, played to a full house of enthusiastic bidders from all over the United States, including some "snowbirds" who fled the North and Midwest for some Florida sunshine. More than 800 numismatic items crossed the block during the two-day event, which realized a total of \$6,406,622.

Anchoring the sale was the **Douglas L. Noblet Collection of United States Half Dollars** and the **Dr. Wallace Lee Collection of Liberty Seated Silver Dollars.** Noblet assembled one of the finest cabinets of half dollars. His knowledge of the series, discerning eye and persistence led him to create a truly impressive collection. The first lot in the sale, Noblet's 1794 half dollar (Overton-101a), originally was part of the F.C.C. Boyd Collection and brought \$288,500.

Dr. Wallace Lee's collection of Liberty Seated dollars and related patterns was equally impressive, with an original 1851 in Mint State-64 condition bringing \$50,600, and an 1852 restrike graded Proof-62 selling for a tidy \$21,850.

Says Lee of his introduction to the hobby, "My coin collecting really exploded in the early 1960s while silver was still in the coins in circulation. I used to sort bags of coins in the evenings and then return them for an exchange the next day, very convenient to do as my dental office was located in a bank building," he explained. "I thoroughly *lived* for . . . collecting and read every book I could find on the subject. I also joined some coin clubs [and the American Numismatic Association]." He pursued his research by borrowing books from the ANA Library, and he attended the ANA's Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs.

Bowers and Merena's 1999 auction schedule includes sales in Baltimore (March 18-20 and November 11-13); New York City (May 8-10 and September 9-10); Los Angeles (May 29-31); and Chicago (August 9). Contact the firm at Box 1224, Wolfeboro, NH 03894; telephone 800/458-4646; or fax 603/569-5319; or visit its web site at [www.bowersandmerena.com](http://www.bowersandmerena.com).



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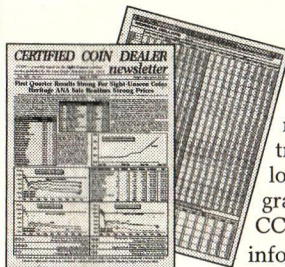
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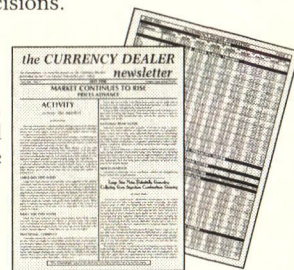
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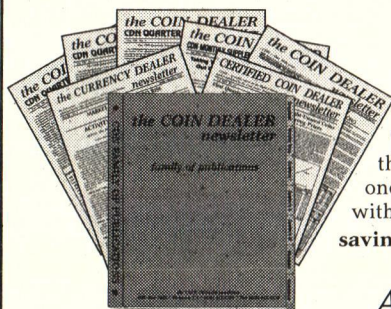
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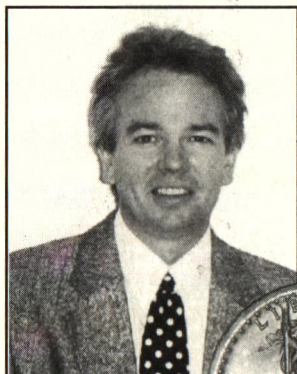
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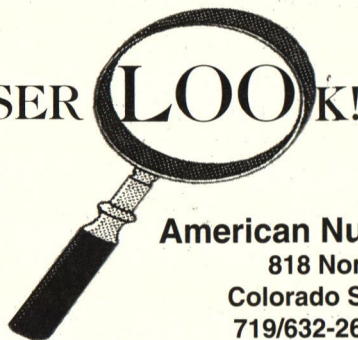
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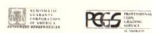
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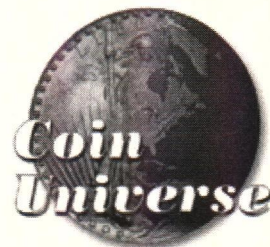
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## Such a Diehl!

EVERYONE SHOULD JOIN the Philip N. Diehl Fan Club. If no such club exists, one should be formed immediately, with chapters in every state, affiliates in every city and representatives on every block. Phil Diehl is director of the United States Mint, and his recent achievements represent the best things to happen in our hobby since too much die polish eliminated one of the buffalo's legs on some nickels.

(This is not my first public praise of Mr. Diehl. Several years ago, I suggested the United States establish a new coin denomination called the "Diehl." A larger coin would be a "Double Diehl"; an error coin would be an "Odd Diehl"; and an uncertified coin would be a "Raw Diehl.")

My admiration for the Mint Director grew in January when I attended the busy Florida United Numismatists (FUN) convention in Orlando. There he and Mint staff handed out free samples of the just-released Delaware commemorative quarter. (Sure, each coin costs only about 4 cents to produce, but it's the thought that counts.) Imagine, a federal government agency literally giving money away—and it's not the Defense Department!

The FUN show is one of the most successful in the country. Even if the numismatic market is colder than the Chicago Bears' 4th-quarter defense, FUN bourse tables virtually always sell out because all the dealers in the northern states are dying to take a tax-deductible winter break in Florida. They get a business trip write-off even if there is little business to write up. Baseball-card dealers have a similar winter junket, fly-

ing each February to a sports industry trade seminar in Hawaii, a state with no major-league sports teams.



(Back in late 1992, a few members of the American Numismatic Association's Board of Governors suddenly realized it was winter and decided they needed to conduct a meeting at the upcoming FUN show. Now, if the issues confronting the Board were *that* urgent, a telephone conference call promptly could have been arranged at a cost of about \$500. Instead, the Board opted for a free trip to FUN in the sun. Free to them, but an expense of roughly \$10,000 to the ANA for transportation, hotel accommodations and meals. I boycotted that 1993 meeting and stayed home in Chicago—a decision that left me in the cold politically, as well as climatically.)

The bourse action at this year's FUN convention was lively. President Glenn E. Meyers, Secretary Cindy Grellman and Convention Director Jim Best produced yet another outstanding event. There were plenty of smiles among dealers and collectors—or at least those collectors who arrived before many of the smiling dealers started packing up Saturday afternoon. (Yeah, the FUN convention, like so many other shows nationwide, has that problem, too.)

But it was Mint Director Diehl

who stole the show. Visitors lined up at the Mint booth, perhaps a few hundred at a time, to obtain complimentary Delaware quarters in transparent "flips" that included special inserts describing the 50 State Quarters™ Program. With good humor, Diehl autographed the inserts and briefly chatted with collectors as they approached his counter. He even signed the holder of the first Delaware quarter to be certified and encapsulated by the Professional Coin Grading Service. He laughed out loud when told the joke making the rounds at the convention: "What kind of horse is on the back of the Delaware coin? A quarter horse!"

Diehl helped publicize last year's ANA World's Fair of Money® and the hobby by deliberately spending a donated 1914-D Lincoln cent to purchase a 99-cent bag of potato chips at a Portland, Oregon, grocery store. This guy definitely is cool.

When he's not autographing inserts or involved in ANA coin-drop stunts, Phil Diehl is in charge of the world's largest coin "dealership," with \$1 billion in revenue and 2,200 employees. He also sells jewelry. For sale at the Mint's booth at the FUN show were earrings adorned with circulated Barber dimes and a key chain decorated with a 90-year-old Barber half dollar.

You know, if those souvenir items become really popular, maybe he could strike more of those coins. Yeah, it's cool to be Mint director. •

*Former ANA Governor Donn Pearlman can be reached at P.O. Box 750, Skokie, IL 60076, E-mail donnpr@aol.com.*



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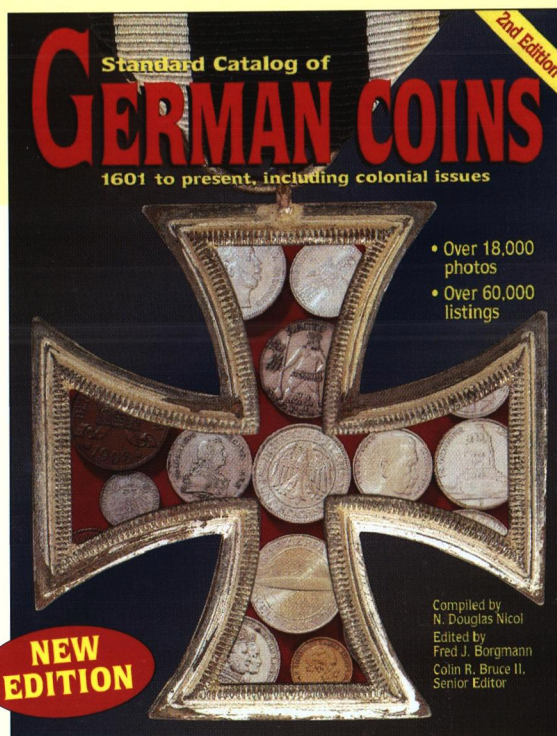
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